Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support the idea of stopping future automatic increases in the CNMI's minimum wage?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Kung Hei Fat Choi!

Today is the Chinese New Year and the *Saipan Tribune* marks the occasion with a special advertising feature on the Year of the Rat.

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Svengali

A restraining order against the man who's been at Britney Spears' side during her downward spiral portrays him as a Svengali figure.

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House eyes lower salary for its pick for LB chief. **PAGE 5**

AMOUNT OWED SOME FOREIGN WORKERS

$6.1M unpaid wages, damages

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

712 Labor administrative orders and judgments that awarded a total of $6.1 million in unpaid wages and other damages to alien workers but remain uncollected.

Federal Ombudsman Jim Benedetto yesterday disclosed that these orders and judgments carry a total amount of

See $6.1M on Page 4

From 600 in January, the Federal Ombudsman's Office has now collected

503 GOB checks for distribution

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A total of 503 checks representing $174,657.09 are ready for distribution at the Garment Oversight Board's office in Puerto Rico starting Monday.

GOB chair Timothy H. Bellas said the

See 503 on Page 4

Former Judge Timothy H. Bellas, chairman of the Garment Oversight Board, show the checks that will be distributed to former garment workers at his office in Puerto Rico yesterday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

ASH WEDNESDAY

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Fr. Glen Ragsag applies black ash in the shape of a cross on the forehead of hundreds of Saipan's Roman Catholic devotees, signifying repentance before God during the Mass celebration of Ash Wednesday at the Kristo Rai Church in Garapan yesterday.

Congress to revisit minimum wage hike

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The U.S. Congress will hold hearings on the minimum wage later this month.

The House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs is conducting a hearing in American Samoa on Friday, Feb. 22, 2008. The field hearing will focus on the economic effects of the recently in-

See CONGRESS on Page 4

Pula

It was a political day like no other

By ERIN McCLAM
AP NATIONAL WRITER

SUPER Tuesday

She had a 13-hour window to vote in the Arizona presidential primary, but Mona Reese decided she couldn't wait. She didn't even brush her teeth or change out of her pajamas before leaving home.

She found herself in line before dawn at the fellowship hall of a Methodist church in Phoenix,

See IT WAS on Page 4

Local

2 vaccines vs rotavirus available in March

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

Two new vaccines against rotavirus, the leading known cause of deaths from diarrhea among infants worldwide, will be available at the Department of Public Health come March 1.

According to medical director Dr. Richard Brostrom, the two vaccines are recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics, and have been approved by the Commonwealth Health Center' Pediatrics as well as Centers for Disease Control regional epidemiologist Dr. Jean Paul Chaine.

"We understand that parents can be overwhelmed with the number of vaccines recommended for their children. We want the community to know that we are mindful of their concerns, that their children have to get a lot of vaccines," Brostrom said. However, "we choose the ones for the children in the CNMI very carefully."

The rotavirus vaccines have been tested on more than 72,000 children before being released.

Rotavirus is a virus that causes severe diarrhea. It can also cause vomiting, fever and dehydration. It is the leading cause of diarrhea in infants and young children. Most children are likely to be infected with rotavirus before their fifth birthday.

Brostrom said the virus is a serious infection for children across the Pacific.

"The virus lives across the world that affects humans. Especially in children, it can cause very serious vomiting and diarrhea to the point where many children will die every year from disease," Brostrom said.

DPH cannot provide the actual number of cases of rotavirus in the CNMI as they are very difficult to test.

"We certainly do not have the capacity to do these tests in our laboratory in the CNMI, so all testing need to be sent out," Brostrom said. He added, though, that there has not been a single death from rotavirus in the CNMI recently.

"We get outbreaks of diarrheal illness every year and we anticipate that administering the vaccine to CNMI children is going to save many children from getting sick, will save many hospitalizations and may very well save a number of children's lives," he said.

The new vaccines are orally taken, just like the old polio vaccine.

According to immunization program manager Mariana Santos, the vaccine will not be administered to children after the age of six months and above. "It's not proven to be effective for children over that age," she said.

The vaccines may cause a slight fever but sometimes that's a sign that the vaccine is working and it's priming the immune system of the vaccine, Santos said.

"It's a safe vaccine and very effective. We'll predict more than 95 percent of hospitalizations for rotavirus will go away after we give this vaccine," Brostrom said.

Diarrhea caused by rotavirus resulted in more than half a million deaths worldwide every year.

The vaccines are federally funded under a program for Vaccine for Children Program and the National Immunization Program.

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Deposits up, loans down in final quarter of 2007

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Deposits to local banks inched up by 2.5 percent in the last three months of 2007, even as loans fell by 10.6 percent in the same period last year.

The Department of Commerce's 2007 banking report for the fourth quarter of 2007 showed total deposits growing to $531.1 million, compared to $518 million recorded during the same period in 2006.

That left the banking sector's loan-to-deposit ratio at 30.4 percent, which equates to a 12.8-percent drop in the loan-to-deposit ratio reported in the period from October to November 2006.

The biggest growth came from demand from the government and its agencies, which posted a 48.1-percent increase from $18 million in the same period in 2006 to $26.8 million in the last three months of 2007.

Demand from the private sector, meanwhile, saw a 4-percent growth from $125 million to $130 million. In all total demand saw a 9.6-percent rise from $143 million in the fourth quarter of 2006 to $156.8 million in October-December of 2007.

The same could not be said for savings though, as the sector suffered a 10.3-percent drop in the last three months of 2007.

Savings from government and its agencies saw a drop of 27.3 percent to $32.8 million, compared to the $45.1 million posted during the same period in 2006.

Savings from the private sector, meanwhile, slowed down by 3.6 percent in the fourth quarter of last year to $110 million, compared to $114.5 million in the final three months of 2006.

Total Time Certificates of Deposit (including cashiers checks) made up for the drop in savings in the fourth quarter by going up by 7.4 percent to $231.1 million, compared to the $215.1 million posted during the same period in 2006.

TCDs from the government and its agencies showed an improvement of 7.7 percent to $37.3 million from $34.7 million. Private TCDs, meanwhile, saw a 7.4 jump to $193.7 million, compared to $180.4 million in the fourth quarter of 2006.

Consumer loans represented the biggest drop in the fourth quarter of 2007, decreasing by 11.8 percent to $65.3 million, compared to $74 million in the same period two years ago.

Commercial loans also took a hit in the final three months of last year, going down by 11.2 percent to $53.9 million from $60.8 million in the same period of 2006.

Real estate, for its part, saw a 7.8-percent drop to $42.3 million, compared to the $45.9 million posted in the final three months of 2006.

Commerce also reported that the banking sector's total assets grew by 2.6 percent in the final quarter of 2007 to $541.6 million from $527.7 million during the same period in 2006.

While interest income fell by 6 percent ($13.6 million from $14.5 million), interest expense more than made up for the drop by growing 30.3 percent to $10.6 million, compared to $8.1 million during the same period in 2006.

www.marianaslabor.net

The Department of Labor's new website is now available for posting job vacancy announcements by employers, posting resumes by persons seeking employment, and viewing of job vacancy announcements by the general public. Use of the website is free.

If you want to post a JVA, when you go to the website, please register as an employer. Your registration will be promptly reviewed by the Department of Labor. Once, your registration has been approved, you will be able to post job vacancy announcements and review resumes. You need to register only once. Only registered and approved employers are allowed to post JVAs and review posted resumes.

If you want to post a resume, when you go to the website, please register as a prospective employee. Your registration will be reviewed promptly by the Department of Labor. Once your registration has been approved, you will be able to post your resume and reply directly to posted JVAs. You need to register only once. Only registered persons in the community are allowed to post resumes and use the website to reply directly to posted JVAs.

If you want to look at posted job vacancy announcements, just visit the website. Job vacancy announcements are available for viewing by the general public. No registration is required for this purpose. Department of Labor forms and announcements will be also be available to the general public on this website for downloading.

Immunization Clinic relocates to the former Children's Clinic

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Health's Immunization Clinic is set to open its doors at its new location at the Commonwealth Health Center next week, Monday.

The immunization clinic will now be administering their shots at the former CHC Children's Clinic. The clinic, once located in San Antonio, will house four administrative staff and two nurses.

"The immunization clinic has been around for many, many years until it was decided to be moved," Immunization program manager Mariana Santos said.

She added that renovation and the remodeling of the space was done at no cost.

"We did not contract anybody to do the work for us. It was all done by us," she said.

According to medical director Dr. Richard Brostrom, "Our goal is to remove all barriers that stand between a mom and getting her children immunized such as transportation and cost."

He added that the vaccinations do not replace a doctor's examination.

"What we want to encourage is for parents to know that children still need to have a doctor's examination," Brostrom said.

The Children's Clinic has moved to the new Dr. Jose T. Villagomez Public Health & Dialysis Clinic.

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Forty new charter flights to Rota

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The tourism industry on Rota received a boost Tuesday when Kinki Nippon Tourist Co. said that it will bring in 40 new charter flights to the CNMI's southernmost chain in the next couple of years.

In a business conference in Japan attended by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and KNT president Takashi Ota, the subsidiary of Kintetsu International, one of the largest Japanese travel and tour companies, announced that it would bring in new charter flights to Rota beginning late April this year.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Gov. Benigno R. Fitial shakes hands with Kinki Nippon Tourist Co. president Takashi Ota in Japan after the tour company president announced new charter flights to Rota. Rota Mayor Joseph S. Inos, right, joined Fitial in welcoming the announcement from KNT, a subsidiary of Kintestu.

In a media release from the Governor's Office, the Japanese tour company is said to be banking on the increasing popularity of eco-tourism or environmental tourism among Japanese travelers.

"KNT will bring in 40 annual charter flights to Rota. The flights are expected to bring in some 8,000 tourists to Rota in about a year," said the governor's public information officer Charles Reyes.

Reyes added that, according to Ota, the new Rota charter flights represents a great opportunity for his company's next step in the future of CNMI tourism.

KNT has chartered Continental Airlines to bring in the new Rota flights.

In a telephone interview with the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Pacific Development Inc. assistant general manager Masanori Takahashi said Continental Airlines is planning to use its 155-seater Boeing 737 aircraft to service the Rota charter flights.

PDI is the local subsidiary of KNT in the CNMI.

The inaugural charter flights to Rota arranged by KNT will take place during Japan's Golden Week and will begin on April 26 and it will run through May 6—daily flights for a total of 10 days, added Takahashi.

During a KNT ceremony in Tokyo on Tuesday, Fitial presented Ota with a plaque of appreciation for KNT's commitment to the CNMI's tourism market.

Fitial thanked KNT on behalf of the people and the government of the CNMI. Fitial was joined by Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio and Rota Mayor Joseph S. Inos.

Just before Fitial left for Japan on Monday, the governor said during his speech at the opening of the Palms Resort Saipan Friday that he was not about to give up on investments coming from Japan.

IT WAS

From Page 1

excitedly waiting to cast a ballot for Sen. Barack Obama. Later she clutched her "I Voted Today" sticker as if it were a winning lottery ticket.

"I literally just woke up," she said, apologizing for tousled hair and a make-up-free face. "I'm so sorry. It's that important. To wake up at 5:45 in the morning to get down here and vote."

The enthusiasm was not uncommon on a day like no other in American politics, a scramble of primaries and caucuses that went coast-to-coast—and beyond, to the South Pacific island of American Samoa.

This Tuesday was more than Super. It was a day in which more people than ever before had a say in who would be left standing to wage the long campaign for the presidency.

And it produced democracy in some of its most dramatic forms.

In Alaska, battered by some of the most brutal cold of the winter, voters trudged through a foot of new snow in some places to get to caucuses at convention centers, middle schools, a radio station—and at least one Chinese restaurant.

In lower Manhattan, voters in the New York primary elbowed their way past euphoric New York Giants fans, through tons of fluttering confetti, to get to polling places close to the Super Bowl victory parade.

In Virginia, voters were so eager they turned up at polling places across the state and deluged the Board of Elections with phone calls—and the Virginia primary isn't for another week.

It was the apex—so far—of an election season in which unusually wide-open party races, markedly increased voter interest, and the most diverse set of finalists ever have all converged.

Or in the words of Jessica Pomey, a 29-year-old Obama voter from Oakland, Calif.: "Politics used to be something you didn't talk about. Now it's everywhere, in hair salons, everywhere. It's part of the conversation."

The geographic scale was unprecedented for a primary season—and, in a way, bigger than most general elections, which are fought mostly in a few battleground states.

503

From Page 1

503 checks will be distributed alphabetically to the workers who are found qualified to receive the settlement money in connection with the class lawsuit against the garment industry.

These 503 workers are confirmed to be still on Saipan, said Bellas in a press conference yesterday.

He said distribution will be done in alphabetical order according to the worker's last name on the following dates between 9am to 12pm and 1pm to 5pm.

The distribution will be as follows:

- A-C: Monday, Feb. 11
- D-G: Tuesday, Feb. 12
- H-K: Wednesday, Feb. 13
- L-M: Thursday, Feb. 14
- N-P: Friday, Feb. 15
- Q-S: Monday, Feb. 18
- T-W: Tuesday, Feb. 19
- X: Wednesday, Feb. 20
- Y: Thursday, Feb. 21
- Z: Friday, Feb. 22

Bellas said that those unable to pick up their checks on these dates may go to the GOB office on Feb. 25 to March 1.

"A photo identification is required when picking up checks. Those workers with no Social Security in our file will also be required to present a copy for tax purposes," he said.

There are actually a total of 578 checks but some have already been mailed out to China.

Of the 578 checks, Bellas said, 332 belong to those who never received a payment as they are the ones not previously included in the initial distribution but who have provided documentation to the GOB showing they are qualified to be members of the class.

These 332 will receive $479 each. Except for Philippine citizens, Federal Insurance Contributions Act taxes will be withheld from such checks and paid to the U.S. government.

With respect to the remaining checks, Bellas said that 33 checks have already been mailed out to workers who are now back in China.

He said the GOB staff is currently working on the remaining 42 payments to ensure correct mailing addresses in China.

After the checks are distributed, the chair said, GOB is going to make a supplemental payment to over 14,000 people who are going to share equally in the $2 million that remains.

GOB will then establish the Garment Workers Trust Fund for the benefit of repatriating and otherwise assisting garment workers who encounter difficulties from the winding down and ultimate closure of the garment industry.

CONGRESS

From Page 1

creased minimum wage.

Witnesses have not been announced yet. But Nikolao Pula, the acting deputy assistant secretary of the Interior for Insular Affairs, is expected to testify.

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources has tentatively scheduled its minimum wage hearing in Washington, D.C. for Thursday, Feb. 28, 2008.

The hearings follow a report by the U.S. Department of Labor stating that further increases to the minimum wage may harm the economies of the Northern Marianas and American Samoa. Both U.S. possessions controlled their own wage until the federal wage law passed last year.

In an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*, Pula said the DOL report "provides sufficient evidence that it is highly likely that there will be substantial adverse effects on the economies, especially on local employment and public finances."

He noted that the report does not specifically recommend that Congress act to address the potentially adverse effects of the scheduled wage increases on the economies and labor markets of the CNMI and American Samoa.

"This is probably because the Congress did not ask the Department of Labor for recommendations but more for an understanding of the effects of minimum wage increases on the local economies," he said.

Pula also said that a bill amending the minimum wage law is "worth discussing."

Sponsored by American Samoa Rep. Eni Faleomavaega, H.R. 5154 proposes to condition further increases in the minimum wage applicable to the two territories on a determination by the Department of Labor that such increases will not have an adverse impact on the economies of the places.

Pula said he cannot issue an official position on the bill until after it is approved by the administration.

The minimum wage applicable to American Samoa and the CNMI were increased 50 cents an hour on July 24 and July 25, 2007, respectively. In addition, minimum wages to the territories will increase by 50 cents until they reach the federal minimum wage of $7.25 an hour.

For the CNMI, the minimum wage was increased by 50 cents an hour to $3.55 on July 25, 2007, and will rise to $7.25 an hour by 2015.

For American Samoa, current minimum wages vary by industry, with the most significant being the minimum wage for the tuna canning industry, which is currently $3.76 an hour, reflecting the initial 50-cent increase on July 24, 2007. The minimum wage for American Samoa will increase across the board to $7.25 an hour by 2014.

$6.1M

From Page 1

$6,130,802.96 in unpaid wages and damages owed to some foreign workers.

Benedetto explained he came up with the total amount after subtracting partial payments already received by workers, amounting to just $61,928.16 or about 1 percent of the amount owed.

The largest amount is $48,771.86 and the smallest is $50.

There are 64 unpaid awards amounting to over $20,000; 222 unpaid awards of $10,000 or more; and 462 of over $500. The oldest unpaid award dates from February 1994, according to the federal official.

Now that the data has been compiled, Benedetto said he will share it with the Office of Insular Affairs and the U.S. Congress.

Benedetto said he will try to come up with a set of recommendations on how to best help alien workers collect the wages awarded them.

"I will also share the data with the CNMI Department of Labor and the Attorney General's Office, if they wish to pursue these claims on behalf of the workers, and enforce the orders and judgments of the Labor Hearing Office," he said.

The federal ombudsman said the workers submitted to his office copies of the administrative orders awarding them unpaid wages and other compensation.

The workers, he said, also submitted a form on which they had to declare any partial payments they received.

According to the documents, many of the unpaid awards are owed by security companies.

The security agencies include Island Security Services Inc.; Commonwealth Security Services Inc., and George C. Dunes; Vicente T. Attao & Frances B. Attao dba Famco Security Services; Augustine R. Ayuyu dba CNMI Security Service; Antonio Benavente dba Benavente Security; Antonio Reyes dba Business Protection Services; Luis Kapileo dba Kapileo Protection Services; Joseph M. Borja dba Borja Security Services; Aida S. Attao & Julie Attao dba Bangel Security Agency; Antonio P. Mareham dba AMCO Security Agency; and Nelia S. Madlmeduh dba Mayon Enterprises.

Garment factories such as Sako Corp., NET Corp., Sun Mei Corp., and others also owe significant amounts to workers.

In an earlier interview, Benedetto said the U.S. Congress is very concerned that workers may return to their home countries without getting the money that they have been awarded by Labor. This is the reason, he said, why his office is collecting the information pertaining to these administrative orders.

Taotao Tano Association president Greg Cruz had criticized Benedetto for this, saying his "outdated and exaggerated reports" to the Interior Department about the CNMI enhances the possible passage of the federalization bill.

Benedetto had responded that it was actually the U.S. Congress that asked his office to find out how many workers are owed back wages that have not been paid. "If Greg Cruz has a problem with that, he should write to Congress and say 'I don't want you asking those questions' or 'I don't want you getting that information,'" Benedetto said.

House eyes lower salary for its pick for LB chief

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

A lawmaker says the Legislature can save money if the House of Representatives has its way in the selection of a new director for the Legislative Bureau.

Rep. Stanley T. Torres said yesterday that members of the House majority had voted to eliminate the LB deputy director position and to reduce the salary of the LB director.

Current LB director Joaquin Omar gets $70,000 a year.

Torres said the House finds the amount excessive, and looks to cut it down to $54,000 when its choice for the position, former special assistant for management and budget Ed Tenorio, assumes the job.

The House and Senate, however, remain at odds over the directorship appointment.

The Senate wants LB deputy director Glenna SP Reyes to replace Omar, saying she has the hands-on experience and is already doing much of the work administering the legislative bureau.

Torres says the Senate's insistence on promoting Reyes to the directorship "is creating a growing problem of possible nepotism and disharmony among our LB staff."

Reyes is the wife of Senate President Pete P. Reyes.

Torres also said the issue must be brought to an end soon. "We need action and an update with the LB status, which is already making people believe we don't have our act together," he told House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios.

3 teens nabbed for Christmas Day fracas at Pak Pak Beach

Three teenagers have been arrested for allegedly beating up and throwing rocks at five persons and smashing up two cars at Pak Pak Beach in San Antonio during the early morning of Christmas Day.

Derick Kaipat Rangamar, 18, was arrested on Tuesday for disturbing the peace, assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon, criminal mischief, and minor consuming liquor.

Rangamar's co-defendants—ages 16 and 17—were also recently apprehended for disturbing the peace, assault and battery, criminal mischief, and minor consuming alcohol.

A $6,500 cash bail each was initially imposed for the defendants' temporary release.

A bail hearing was set yesterday afternoon for Rangamar.

According to Detective Peter A. Aldan's report, the fight started when the drunken Rangamar forced the victims to drink vodka. He allegedly got angry when some of the victims refused.

Police said the defendants and some friends had been drinking vodka and beer at Pak Pak Beach when the victims arrived to meet their cousins there.

The first victim told police that when they arrived at Pak Pak Beach at 2:20am on Dec. 25, Rangamar's group was already there.

The first victim said that he knew Rangamar and his group and they even greeted them a "Merry Christmas."

The victim said Rangamar later came out from the pavilion and started offering vodka to all of them.

The first victim said he took one shot of vodka, but the rest refused. Rangamar started calling them names, leading up to Rangamar and the two minor defendants beating up the victims and throwing rocks at them.

When the victims ran to the road, the suspects started smashing their cars. Police came and arrested the three suspects.

Four victims sustained lacerations, bruises, and scratches in the different parts of the body.

The fifth victim said he was trying to stop the fight, but Rangamar punched him instead on the shoulder. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CADA: Used car sales remain robust

Used car sales continue to buoy flagging new car sales, according to Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association president Matt Deets in a recent interview with the *Saipan Tribune*.

Although CADA did not provide comparative figures for used car sales sold in the past two years (2007 and 2008), the general manager of Joeten Motors attested that the sales of secondhand vehicles have been robust across the market during the period.

"If you look at the used car numbers, we are up over 25 percent last year. I think the whole market was up 25 percent all year. I'm projecting used cars to remain strong this year," he said.

Deets said that for Joeten Motors alone, the dealership sold more used cars than new cars last year and the reason for this, he said, is economics.

"People are looking for less expensive cars… that's part of it. [But] it shows that people are still buying. …If you look at the overall picture and if you add up all the car sales (used car sales and new), all automobile dealers did well and were competitive because of used car sales and as a result overall sales we're pretty stable," he said.

Used car sales continued its strong growth last month as CADA members Joeten Motors, Microl Corp., and Triple J Motors sold a total of 38 units, which is the same number of secondhand vehicles it sold in January 2007.

Deets' Joeten Motors led the way in used car sales, selling 17 last month, representing a 44.7 percent share of the market.

Microl Corp. sold 11 used cars in January 2008 (29.9 percent), while Triple J Motors disposed of 10 used cars last month. All CADA members maintained their used car sales numbers from the same period last year. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Kung Hei Fat Choi!

Welcome the "Year of the Rat" with a traditional Lion Dance at the Hyatt's lobby at 11:00 am on February 7th.

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Kung Hei Fat Choi!

The Year of the charming, respected, courageous and enterprising Rat lies ahead of us. A year filled with abundance, activity, renewal, and great opportunities. When coupled with hard work and patience, this will be a year of great success. During this time, we reflect on our goals and aspirations seeking happiness and prosperity.

On behalf of First Hawaiian Bank,
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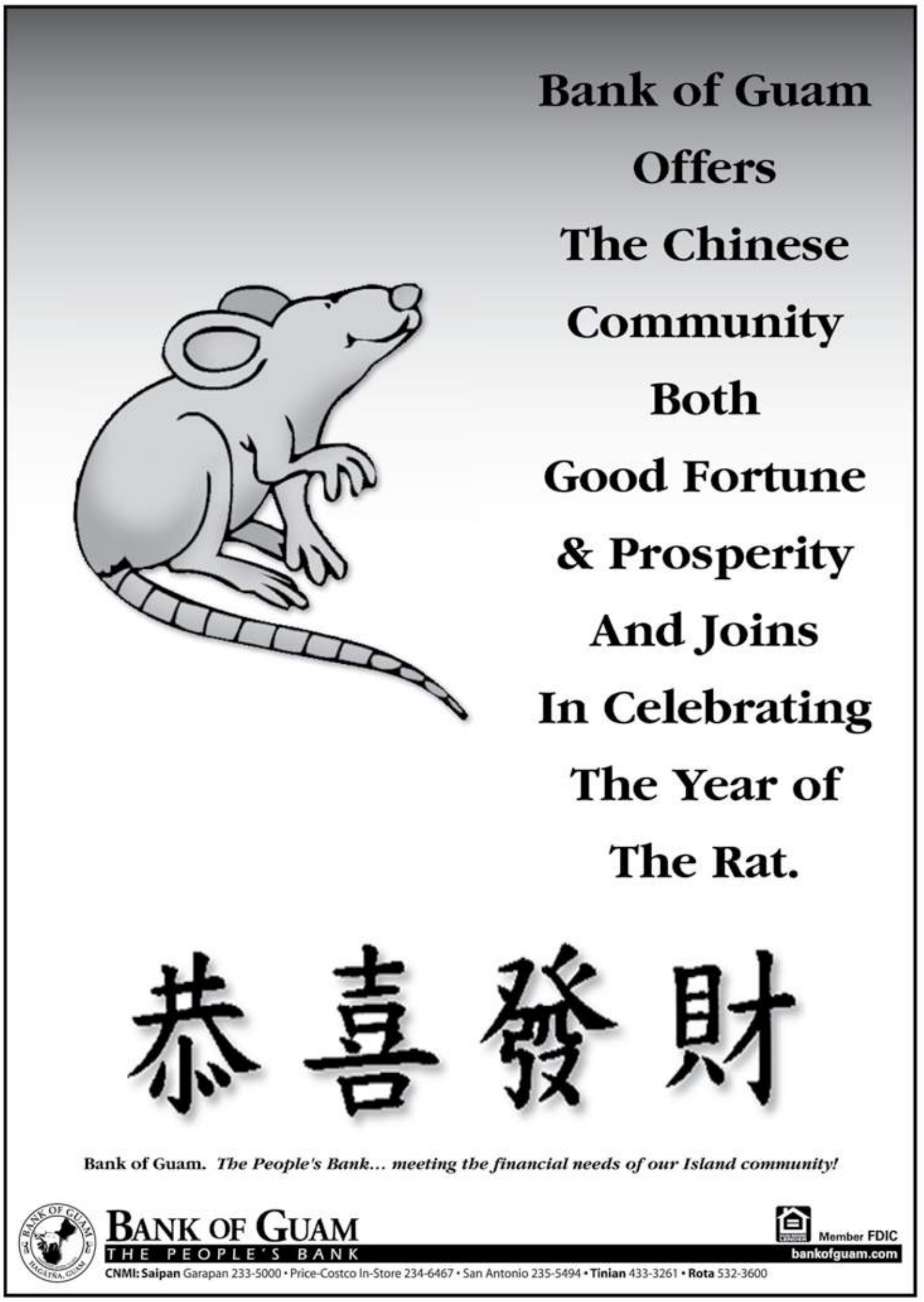
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross recently added five new members to their board of directors. The local volunteer board has oversight over all local Red Cross activities and provides governance and strategic direction to the Chapter staff. Pictured standing from left to right: Juan D. Tenorio, staff; Kennedy Benjamin, staff; John D. Guerrero, John Hirsh, staff; Jerry Facey, Jerry Tan, Juan Lizama, Larry Lee, board chairman; Robert Torres, new member; and Joshua Sasamoto, new member. Seated, Michelle Kramer, new member; Viola Sablan, Tayna B. Camacho, Rose Jones, new member; and Lou Johnson. Not in picture are Teresa Kim, Chuck Sayon, new member, Rhoda Smith, Rita Dela Cruz, Winnie Mendiola, and Mili Saiki. For more information about the NMI Chapter and how to get involved, call the Chapter office at 234-3459.



Youth senators give up their paychecks

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Youth politicians are foregoing their paychecks in a bid to help the cash-strapped government.

Acting Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez approved yesterday a bill that stops compensation to members of the Youth Congress.

Under Public Law 15-128, Saipan members will no longer receive payment for attending sessions. Their counterparts from Rota and Tinian will only be provided air transportation and per diem.

The youth senators, who initiated the measure last year, received praise from Villagomez.

"I commend the 10th Youth Congress for passing this legislation to assist our financially ailing government by serving in the Youth Congress voluntarily," said the acting governor.

"The CNMI Youth Congress serves an important role in our Legislature by voicing the issues facing our CNMI teens and bringing forth ideas to improve the educational and social aspects of the CNMI youth. I am humbled that our Youth Congress is willing to take on these tasks voluntarily and assist the CNMI by making this adult decision to help our government," he added.

Sen. Jude Hofschneider sponsored the legislation, on behalf of the Youth Congress.

Previously, youth senators were paid $25 each for every regular session they attended. Members from Rota and Tinian were paid travel expenses, in addition to air transportation and per diem.

But the youth senators have not received these payments for three years now.

The Youth Congress said that both the government and the youth senators will benefit from the Youth Congress members serving as volunteers. It would relieve the CNMI government of the burden of paying the youth senators, and allow the young ones "to embrace a deeper commitment to service and dedication to our community."

"Senators who are serving their terms as volunteers will still receive a great educational experience and essential exposure to legislative workings, still be equipped to perform all the functions they currently perform, and still be able to contribute vitally to the youth of the CNMI," the Youth Congress added.

OPA analyst Demapan obtains specialty title

The Institute of Internal Auditors in January 2008 conferred its Certified Government Auditing Professional designation to Office of the Public Auditor analyst Geraldine Babauta Demapan.

Demapan successfully completed the Certified Government Auditing Professional examination by the Institute of Internal Auditors on July 15, 2007. Recognized worldwide, the CGAP exam is a specialty exam designed specifically for and by audit practitioners in various levels of government.

Demapan

Demapan, a graduate of the Randolph Macon Woman's College with a B.A. in Economics, joined OPA in July 2004.

In addition to taking part in OPA-sponsored auditor training programs, Demapan recently returned from a two-month on-the-job training program at the Interior Department's Inspector General's Office in Albuquerque, New Mexico

CGAPs are members of a growing group of professionals who have met the challenge of certification and, through this achievement, have proven their knowledge of government auditing.

"Passing the challenging CGAP examination and achieving the certification from the IIA are truly distinguishing marks for Geraldine and will be valuable assets for her as she continues to progress in her career," noted Public Auditor Michael Sablan.

Sablan said that Demapan is the second employee of OPA to achieve the distinguished CGAP designation.

Demapan is the daughter of Jose S. Demapan and Susana C. Babauta. ***(OPA)***

Jobless man nabbed for allegedly selling 'ice'

Drug Enforcement Administration-CNMI Task Force agents arrested on Tuesday a jobless man who was allegedly involved in trafficking methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan.

Guang Jing Chen, 45, a Chinese, was charged in federal court with one count of distribution of a controlled substance.

At a hearing yesterday, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David A. Wiseman set no bail for Chen's temporary liberty.

A DEA special agent stated in his report that Chen was arrested after he sold $500 worth of "ice" to an undercover agent in front of San Antonio Elementary School on Tuesday.

The special agent said that while the undercover agent was buying items at a store in San Antonio on Friday, he saw Chen at the store and recognized him as among the DEA's target for "ice" trafficking.

The undercover agent approached and asked the defendant if he was selling "ice." Chen allegedly informed the undercover agent he had none at the time. The agent asked Chen to call him on his cell phone if he already had the drugs.

After a few days, Chen allegedly called him up, which led to their transaction in front of the school in San Antonio. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Five-year-old Juan E. Blanco. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ailing child needs a bit of your help

The family of 5-year-old Juan E. Blanco will be holding another fundraiser this Saturday to help raise funds for the child's treatment.

Juan, who is suffering from leukemia, is set to leave the islands again for Hawaii this month to continue chemotherapy treatment at the Kapiolani Hospital.

The fundraiser, a packed lunch sale, will be held on Feb. 9, 2008, starting at 11:30am, at the 13 Fishermen's Pavilion along Beach Road.

Juan's parents, John and Pearl Blanco, as well as their extended family, are soliciting the public's support for this fundraiser, which is intended to defray the cost of his treatment.

Topline's Lisa Sablan, Juan's grandmother, said that, although her grandson is still fighting the disease, he has been very upbeat and alert. She said that Juan loves wearing fatigues and would salute people at any given moment.

Rep. Joseph Reyes laughingly told a story that, at one time, he ran into Juan at a gas station and the young boy, seeing Reyes' Army-style cap, shouted out "Salute," at the same time snapping a crisp one at the congressman. Reyes said he returned the gesture.

"I wouldn't be surprised if, once this boy conquers this disease, he will grow up to become a soldier," said Reyes.

Sablan expressed gratitude to friends and family members who have already extended their assistance to the family during previous fundraising events and called on them again to support this upcoming event. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Young women sought for LibDay Queen title

The 2008 Liberation Day Committee is soliciting young ladies who are interested in vying for the 2008 Liberation Day Queen title.

Interested ladies must be residents of the CNMI between the ages of 16 and 21 who are single and have never been married or had children. She must have good moral character and in good health.

Interested individuals may pick up an application at the Office of the Mayor of Saipan in Afetnas Square in San Antonio. For more information, contact the committee at 285-8366 or 287-8091. Deadline for submission of application is April 30, 2008. ***(PR)***

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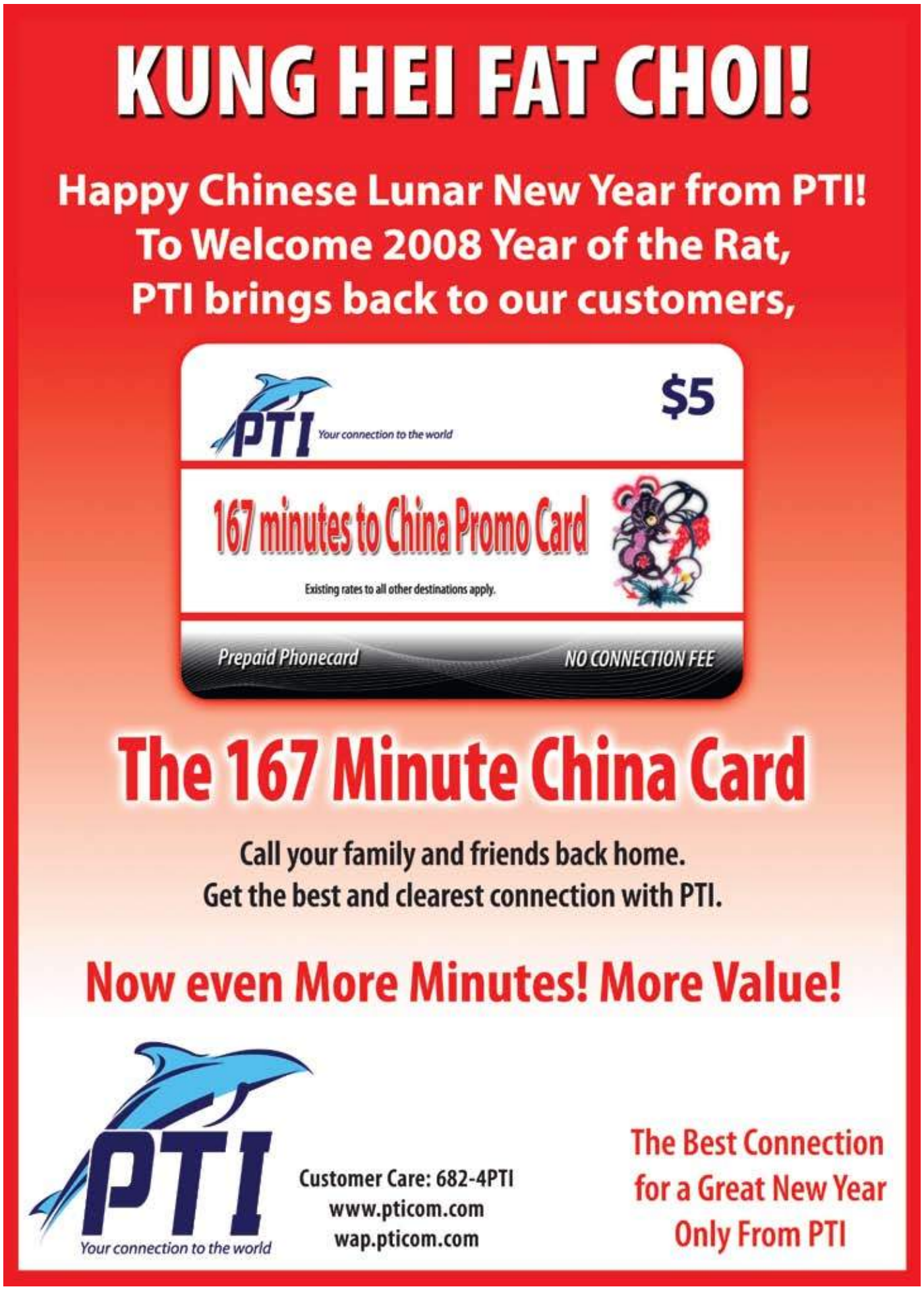
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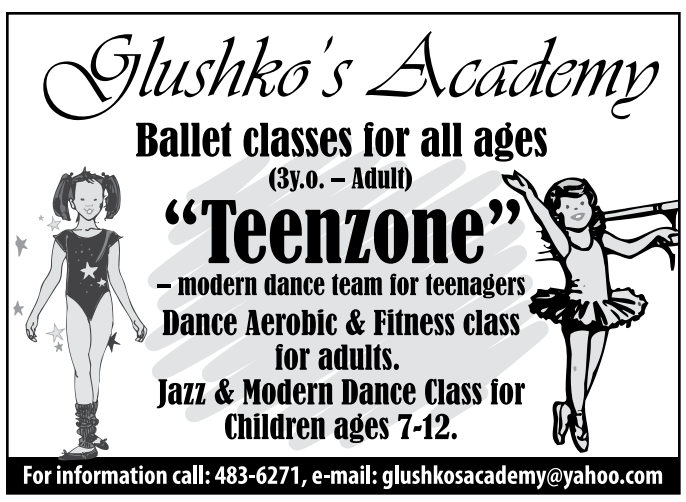

Juvenile detainees undergoing evaluation

Some of the troubled youth at the Kagman Juvenile Detention & Correction Facility have been referred to the Public School System Special Education Program for evaluation.

According to Department of Community & Cultural Affairs acting secretary Melvin L.O. Faisao, some of these juveniles were evaluated by PSS psychologist Marie McGee and found eligible through their Individual Education Plan.

The juvenile referrals have being ongoing since 2006 up to the present.

Faisao noted that more juveniles who come into the justice system may be eligible for the program, but were not detained long enough to go through the testing with the PSS psychologist.

Faisao said the numbers of clients going through the evaluation, their names, and other related information cannot be released for confidentiality issues and that "it will contradict the statute on minors."

DCCA, who handles the operation of the Kagman Juvenile Detention Center, wants public school teachers to provide technical assistance and training to the youths detained at the facility.

Faisao stated in a letter to Education Commissioner David Borja that since PSS is a grantor recipient of the Individual with Disabilities Education Act, public school teachers may be assigned to the facility.

Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. said the two government agencies believe they can assist each other and serve the community better by coordinating and cooperating on youth issues.

"Details are currently being worked out. PSS is receptive," Reyes said. ***(Rianne Pangelinan-Brown)***

US NAVY BRIEFS

USS *Frank Cable* spruces up Mangilao

SANTA RITA, Guam—Sailors with USS *Frank Cable* assisted with the renovations of Mangilao's baseball field and other beautification efforts yesterday.

The community service event commenced with the official declaration of the *Frank Cable*'s partnership with the sister village 9am at the Mangilao Mayor's Office. Present were Capt. Patrick Scanlon, *Frank Cable*'s commanding officer, and Mangilao Mayor Nito Blas.

The submarine tender's primary objective is to assist with the maintenance and repairs of submarines stationed in the southwest Pacific region. The ship, which is home to approximately 1,300 crewmembers, is homeported in Apra Harbor. ***(USN)***

NLSO tax center services available

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Navy Legal Service Office held a ribbon-cutting ceremony yesterday at 9am to officially open its tax center.

Located on U.S. Naval Base Guam on the second floor of Building 4, volunteers will provide basic tax preparation services to include married filing joint with dependents, education credit, childcare expenses, and mortgage interest payments. In addition, authorized patrons interested in preparing their own tax returns can receive one-on-one guidance at the center.

The service is provided free of charge to active-duty service members, retirees, Department of Defense stateside-hire employees, and dependents.

The volunteers, who represent various Navy commands on Guam, completed more than a week of training from an IRS representative.

The center is open Monday-Friday, 8:30-11am and 1-3pm on a walk-in and first-come, first-serve basis. ***(USN)***

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

February 07, 2001

EPA widens scope of PCB probe

United States Environmental Protection Agency experts are widening the scope of investigation on PCB contamination in Tanapag as contractors propose to include testing of underground waters off Tanapag Bay. Environmental Chemical Corporation officials are now working on the cost estimate and a project plan that would pave the road for the expanded investigation in order to determine how polychlorinated biphenyl move through the water.

Jones: Reduce 45-day stay of aliens with expired contracts

Allowing nonresident workers to stay on the islands for another 45 days following expiration of their employment contracts open doors of opportunities for them to remain in the Northern Marianas without valid immigration papers, according to Rep. Dino M. Jones. This, as Mr. Jones begin exploring possible ways to continue giving nonresident workers, whose contracts were not renewed by their employers, enough time to look for another job while curbing any increase in the number of overstaying aliens.

$10M FAA grant for CNMI airports OK'd

Airport facilities in the CNMI stand to benefit from a series of significant facelifts this financial year 2001 through fresh federal dollars that have been set aside for the improvement of the local aviation sector. The Commonwealth Ports Authority recently received pledge of some $10 million in total grants from the Federal Aviation Administration to be devoted in airport enhancement projects on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

February 07, 2002

Babauta tightens belt

In a bid to cut costs further, Gov. Juan N. Babauta has issued a directive outlining specific steps that would help the administration save an average 10 percent in its operational expenditures. The directive, dated January 31 and addressed to all Executive Branch offices, departments and activity heads, also creates an expenditure control task force that would ensure that cost-cutting goals are met within the next 60 days.

New management to take over Payless Supermarket

The employment of at least 25 Payless Supermarket workers is in limbo until the store's new management-the owner of San Jose Mart and 99 Cents Supermarket-decides what to do with them. The new management will take over Payless Supermarket beginning Monday, February 11. Town House, Inc. on Tuesday reached an agreement to transfer the Payless Supermarket operations to Yun's Corporation.

PSS touts benefits of pre-school programs

Results of the recent Reading Diagnostic Test conducted on first graders have convinced Public School System officials that preschool programs, now more than ever, should be kept and recommended to all children bound to enter the primary grades. Though past and present State Board of Education leaderships have placed the kindergarten experience as a must under its education agenda, funding limitations have often threatened this non-mandated program under the compulsory education law. The legislation only mandates schooling for six-year-olds and up.

February 07, 2003

Tourist traffic sets record in Jan.

Passenger traffic from Japan to the Northern Mariana Islands jumped almost 37 percent in January 2003 compared to January 2002, the Japan Airlines and JALWays reported yesterday. According to JAL Group Saipan District Office Sales Manager Yasuyoshi Kinoshita, JAL and JALways established a new record in January 2003, as more than 20,000 passengers from Japan arrived on Saipan in the first month of the year.

Survey underscores need for AT loan financing program in NMI

There is a critical need for an Assistive Technology Alternative Loan Financing Program in the Northern Marianas, as evidenced by the 2002 Consumer Needs Assessment Survey results. The survey was conducted, collected and compiled by the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities-Assistive Technology Project. Survey results were then forwarded to Dr. Joey Wallace, Alternative Financing loan consultant for the Rehabilitation Engineer and Assistive Technology Society of North America in Virginia for analysis.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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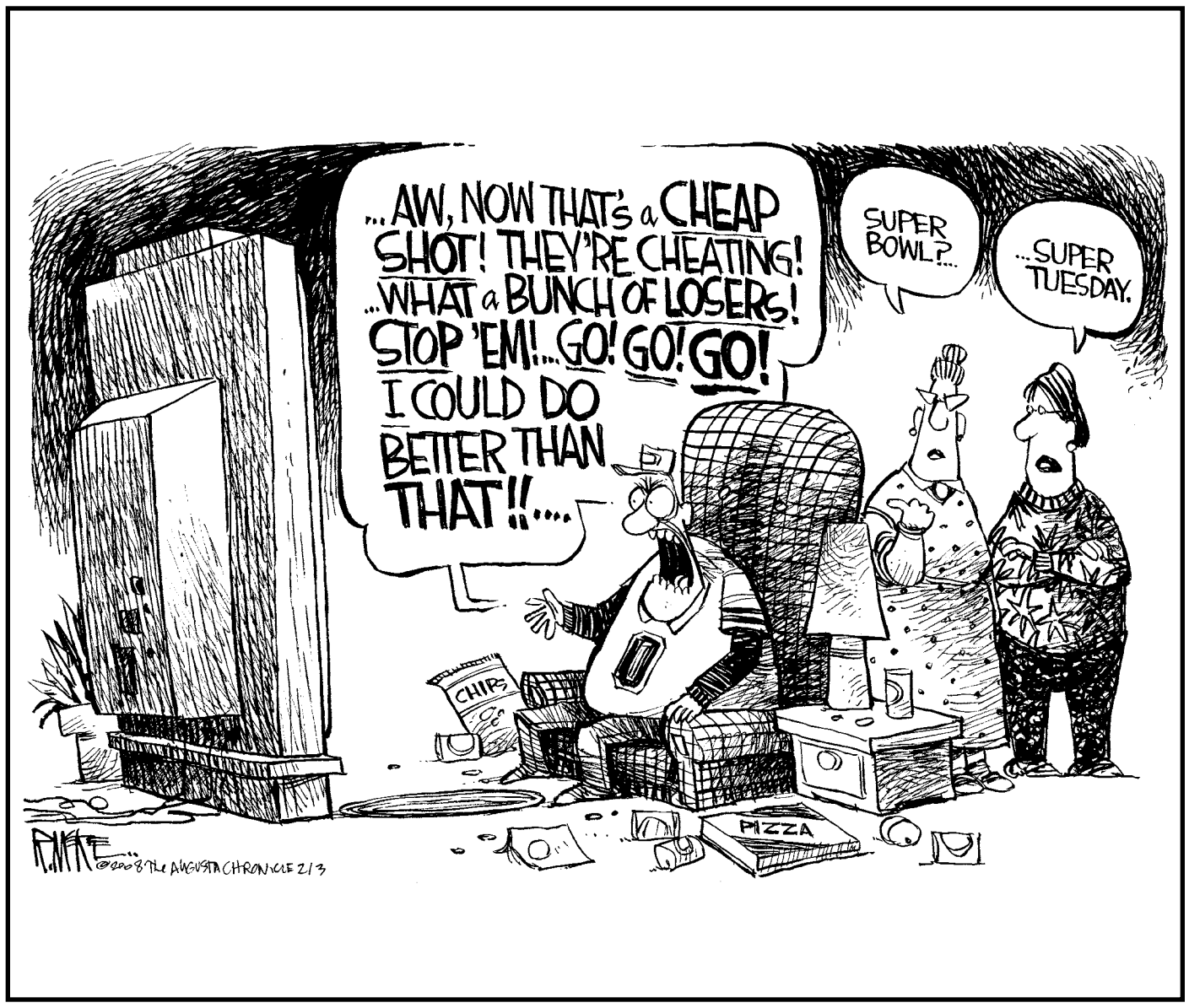
...AW, NOW THAT's a CHEAP SHOT! THEY'RE CHEATING! ...WHAT a BUNCH OF LOSERS! STOP 'EM!...GO! GO! GO! I COULD DO BETTER THAN THAT!!....
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...SUPER TUESDAY.
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EDITORIAL

A stimulating Senate

It's looking all but certain that Congress will pass an economic stimulus bill before mid-February, which isn't necessarily good news; it's questionable whether handing taxpayers a few hundred bucks each would really jolt a sluggish economy, yet there's no doubt at all that it would increase an already scary national debt. Still, some stimuli are more appealing than others, and if we must have a bill, the Senate has a better plan than the House.

President Bush and House leaders are pleased with the compromise they worked out last week, which calls for about $150 billion in tax rebates and incentives. They're less thrilled with the package subsequently approved by the Senate Finance Committee, which would cost more (how much is a subject of debate), aid the poor and boost the clean-technology industry. That plan, drafted by Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., is expected to come to the Senate floor on Wednesday.

The Senate's plan extends unemployment insurance by an additional 13 weeks, provides rebate checks to about 20 million seniors living on Social Security and about 250,000 disabled veterans (neither group would get a penny under the House version), and expands home-heating subsidies. Jobless people and those on fixed incomes are much more likely to spend their rebate checks quickly than those in the middle class, so if the goal is to stimulate spending, this is precisely the population Congress should be targeting.

The Senate also addresses one of the biggest failings of last year's energy bill. Wind and solar power installations are growing at a sizzling pace, but that growth is fueled by production tax credits that expire at the end of the year. An extension was stripped from the energy bill because of an unrelated dispute over taxing oil companies. The credits must be extended as quickly as possible because investors won't pump money into clean power if there's a danger of losing their tax incentives. Renewable energy reduces reliance on foreign oil while cutting greenhouse gases and other pollutants; green technology is also an extremely promising growth industry that could help make up for the loss of manufacturing jobs.

The Senate vote has been delayed until Wednesday, mainly so that the two Democratic senators still in the presidential race, Barack Obama of Illinois and Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York, will have a chance to return to Washington after today's Super Tuesday primaries in order to weigh in (both are expected to support the Baucus plan). That would put the count of those expected to vote in favor at either 58 or 59, according to lobbyists -- just shy of the 60 needed to avoid a filibuster. Which means the plan's success or failure could depend on one man, who has kept mum about his stance: Republican candidate John McCain of Arizona.

McCain has made much during the campaign about his determination to combat global warming. If he's the man of conviction he claims to be, he should return to Washington and back the Baucus bill.

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Manifest your destiny

At the beginning of each month the article will focus on personal and professional development issues. It will also be posted at bizresults.blogspot.com with additional points and for your discussion and comments.

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). This article and additional comments can be found at bizresults.blogspot.com and they can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

Dutch sociologist and futurist Fred Polak was intensely interested in the relationship between nations and their image of the future. In his book titled *Images of the Future*, Polak asked the question: "Is a nation's positive image of its future the consequence of the nation's success; or, is the nation's success a consequence of its positive image of its future?"

That question can be answered by studying the literature of both ancient and modern nations to see how positively they wrote about the future, and how well they lived up to their expectations. In Polak's research, he noticed a pattern emerge among the more successful nations: 1) Their leaders presented a compelling vision of the future; 2) the vision was shared, and their community agreed to support it; and 3) the leaders and community acted together to manifest the destiny they shared.

This was true for Rome, France, England, Spain, Greece, and the United States. Many of these nations lacked the resources or strategic advantage prior to their ascent, and in many cases they succeeded in spite of very difficult times. Polak discovered that a positive image of the future was the key element that preceded significant success. Positive visions are vital to the vitality of countries, communities, organizations, and individuals.

A vision is a picture of the future that is seen with the mind's eye. A vision is not your present reality, but what you believe as your destiny manifest in the present. It is more than just being able to imagine something in the future. The image of the future becomes so powerful that it causes you to step into it and live your future each day.

To better illustrate the power to manifest your destiny, let's look at a well-known personality who has achieved a lot despite his lack of initial resources. Steve Chandler tells about having lunch with Arnold Schwarzenegger in 1976 to write a feature story about him. At the time, Arnold wasn't as well known, and no one in the restaurant recognized him. Chandler asked what Arnold planned to do now that he had retired from bodybuilding, and Arnold nonchalantly responded with his thick Austrian accent, "I'm going to be the number-one box-office star in all of Hollywood."

Chandler was shocked at his answer because Arnold's first attempt as an actor was a box-office disappointment. Not really taking Arnold seriously, but playing along with his comment, Chandler asked him how he planned to become a Hollywood star. Arnold explained he would use the same process he used in bodybuilding. "What you do is create a vision of who you want to be, and then live into that picture, as if it were already true."

In the book *Fantastic*, Arnold made this comment that gives some insight into his psyche and how he has been able to accomplish so much in the U.S., even though he had difficulty speaking English when he first came to America: "I see things way ahead of time. When people say, 'You won't be Mr. Universe, Austrian farm boy,' I say, 'I see.' And they could not figure that out, and I did. I was totally convinced that it would work out. I saw myself as a great action star. I never saw myself as a musical star or something like that. I saw myself as an action star and that's exactly what I did. And I saw myself as the governor."

Whatever your attitude is toward Governor Schwarzenegger, you can't deny that his ability to manifest his destiny has worked for him. However, will it work for you? Do you have the ability to imagine yourself in the future and to create a positive and compelling picture of what you will become? You certainly do!

The real question, though, is can you sustain that vision and then "live into that picture, as if it were already true?" Fear, doubt, stereotypes, and distractions are really the greatest enemies standing between who you are today and the "me I want to be."

Those who achieve greatness see themselves as the person they are becoming every day. Despite negative influences, hardships, prejudice, or a disempowering environment, they are able to break through any external or self-imposed barriers to manifest their destiny to themselves and the world. These are the same individuals who will lead organizations or countries to greatness through their sheer will to manifest a destiny that they envision long before it becomes reality.

Vision without action is merely a dream; action without vision just passes the time. Vision with action can change the world. – Joel Arthur Barker

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Growing Chinese influence in the US economy

Times have changed

Last of a two-part series

In continuing with the essay in yesterday's paper and in reference to the January issue of the *Atlantic Magazine*'s article titled, "The $1.4 Trillion Question" by economist James Fallows, according to an analysis by a former U.S. Treasury economist, China's central bank dollar-based assets make up about 70 percent of its reserves and securities with the balance in euros and yen. It is believed "most of China's U.S. investments are in low-yield, conservative instruments such as Treasury notes." Probably Treasury Inflation-Indexed Securities.

According to Edwin Truman of the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington, D.C., estimates of the foreign holdings of China's central bank are currently thought to be the largest in the world followed by Japan. James Fallows points out, "Certainly China's officials are aware that their stock purchases prop up their money market holdings and keep U.S. interest rates low. Chinese bond purchases allow the U.S. government to spend money without raising taxes."

The questions to pose being—as Mr. Fallows has done—why would China maintain such a policy when many of the country's needs are still unmet, particularly the pressure on the nation's infrastructure? Has China deliberately kept the living standards of its own citizens lower than they could otherwise be? Why does the Chinese government take the people's savings, defined as "all that the people produce—but don't consume" and, in effect, take his wealth and make it available to the United States? Why do Chinese monetary officials invest so much of the country's wealth in U.S. dollars, knowing if present trends prevail, the dollar will continue to keep losing value against the Chinese renminbi (RMB), euro and yen?

These intriguing questions have been posed by Mr. Fallows who explains this seemingly strange Chinese central bank policy by following a dollar's exchange from a consumer in the United States to a factory in China and then back to a Treasury note auction in the United States.

He observes that, unlike the people of the PRC, residents in the United States do not have to obtain their "hard currency" from a government controlled bank in order to obtain money for a foreign purchase or vacation. That's because the U.S. dollar is considered "hard" since it's freely convertible to other currencies as are the yen, deutsche mark, pound sterling and several others.

People in China, on the other hand, must take their money, which is considered "soft" currency, to a government controlled bank or foreign exchange facility and there convert (trade) their yuan into hard currency. This is a result of the yuan not being freely convertible into other currencies.

Consider the purchase of, say, a child's toy at a retail price of $25 from a store in the United States (or any one of the thousands of different items manufactured in China). Much of the $25 will remain in the U.S. with a small percentage finding its way back to China—but not directly to the toy manufacturer. Rather it will find its way into the government-controlled central banking system. The toy manufacturer can't use the dollars directly to meet his local expenses, such as worker salaries, material purchases, local taxes, etc., as he needs local currency for this purpose. He needs RMB. Therefore he must take his dollar payment from the American firm—his receipts or whatever—to prove he earned the dollars through a legal transaction. He then exchanges his invisible dollar earnings for Chinese yuan at an exchange rate set by the bank. Huge sums are generated on a daily bases as a result of Chinese trade with the U.S.

The Chinese bank must do something with its dollars and it turns them over to the Government's Foreign Exchange Administration, which must invest them somewhere to get the best and safest return. A portion is invested in the U.S. in stocks and other instruments such a U.S. Treasury notes, some in euros, some in yen and so forth. Thus the dollar is returned to the States in one form or the other. After this rather circuitous route the money is back in circulation in the U.S. money supply and available for still other purchase from China.

As I evaluate the CNMI from a distance and its efforts to dig itself out of the economic decline it finds itself, it appears to me that the hard realization of the action necessary to get out of its economic hole has not been truly accepted.

The currency exchange rate is fixed by the central bank under a policy to keep Chinese products cheap. This also translates into spending less toward meeting the country's needs such as infrastructure, environmental cleanup, etc. Too much capital investment in Chinese civil works projects drains funds away from still more investment in export oriented—foreign exchange (dollar) earning—factories. New factory jobs contribute to lowering unemployment and serves to mitigate possible adverse social tensions, or so it would seem to be the hope of Chinese leaders.

The situation with the U.S. stock market must finally illustrate to some Asian and European purchasers of Treasury bonds that the United States has changed. As a result, many may figure it's not the safe monetary haven it once was. That would seem to be the panic-stricken message coming out of Congress in trying to correct years of economic policy neglect with band-aid economic stimulus measures (as opposed to solutions) for the serious structural problems within the U.S. economy.

I wouldn't be surprised if some foreign investors decide to disengage from some elements within the U.S. financial sector—and at least partly place their money elsewhere.

By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian, and military cartographer.

Years ago I recall discussing China's foreign investment policy with the deputy director of the organization responsible for making such decisions and was told," Bill it would take volumes to explain it." And he didn't. However, Mr. Fellows has done it in his very fascinating article in the *Atlantic Magazine*.

Times Have Changed

Turning more closer to the islands, for those interested in encouraging Chinese investment it is obvious that the tourism sector offers the potential to attract Chinese attention. To provide a tool to expedite and encourage Chinese investment on the islands it is helpful to give potential projects a "paper personality." Provide potential investors with a starting point by making available specific documented project profiles including financial feasibility analyses and marketing studies along with local investment incentives.

As I evaluate the CNMI from a distance and its efforts to dig itself out of the economic decline it finds itself, it appears to me that the hard realization of the action necessary to get out of its economic hole has not been truly accepted. In a few words, the CNMI must streamline its foreign investment policies; offer lucrative investment incentives and prepare a series of documented investment project profiles the area hopes to encourage. In other words, put together a sales package. Is that too difficult to understand?

It's hard work, requiring a quiet, dedicated commitment and a realization that positive results will not happen overnight. A change of attitude is also necessary for those who still think of the islands as the end of the investment rainbow of the "economic boom period" of 20 to 25 years ago. They are not. Everything has changed—just as China and the U.S. have changed—and the NMI must change as well if it is to break out of the economic situation it is now in.

From my perspective as a former industrial economist it seems highly unlikely that any manufacturing endeavor of a size sufficient to replace the garment industry will ever materialize on the islands in competition with China's manufacturing base. That nation is rapidly becoming the world's factory. That leaves, as many businessmen and women in the islands already know, a future economy largely based upon tourism and the activities required to support that sector such as additional attractions, agriculture, fishing and the many small supporting businesses. Again, none of this is new to those in the islands who have considered the matter. The issue is why hasn't it happened? Answer that question and you have identified the problem.

Letters to the Editor

'Stand up and be counted'

This follows Ms. Ruth L. Tighe's letter to the editor relating to our only public radio station in the CNMI, the KRNM.

Yes, I am one of the members of the KRNM advisory board for several years now. I am also one of the sponsors for some of the programs such as the Car Talk Show.

I cannot overemphasize how KRNM touched my four kids over the story that was aired during the sinking of one of the Russian submarines several years ago. This was a nuclear submarine that at first the Russians were accusing the USA of collusion with its sub, causing it to sink. We all know now that an internal explosion was the cause of the sinking. We also know that many had survived the explosion and were alive for several days. In the mean time, offers of help were coming in from the USA and other countries but Russia declined, saying it can take care of rescuing the survivors. We know they all died before they could be rescued.

My kids followed this story on KRNM every day as I drove them to school in the morning. It made a lasting impression on my kids. I am sure that some of you have had profound experiences while listening to a particular program on KRNM. Some perhaps through the music played on the radio or talk shows and maybe the extensive coverage of the world news.

KRNM is the only radio station on island that airs a variety of music, talk shows and wide coverage of world news without commercials to interrupt our listening pleasure. Wouldn't it be nice to keep this?

We can but it will need your help. I am asking everyone to please be generous and help us keep the only public radio station in the CNMI on the air. No amount is too small. I know we are in hard times. I do feel, however, that the occasion to stand up and be counted and making a difference is now. It would certainly be very refreshing to see us pull through instead of what has been happening with closures here and there.

Please make a difference by donating or sponsoring a program. Each of us counts.

Efrain F. Camacho
Navy Hill, Saipan

Using the old prison as a dog shelter

According to a newspaper report published in the *Saipan Tribune* on Feb. 6, 2008, the government has no plans yet for the old adult prison facility in Susupe.

Why not use the facility as a temporary or permanent animal shelter? It's a win/win situation for everyone.

1.) The structure already exists and is in decent condition. Therefore, the government would not have to spend $75,000 to build a new shelter through the Mayor's Office.

2.) One big problem that the Mayor's Office has mentioned is the lack of funding to train and/or employee shelter staff and purchase animal control equipment. If the government were to convert the old prison into a shelter, a portion of the $75,000 allocated to the Mayor's Office for construction could be used to purchase animal control equipment and/or train shelter staff.

3.) And, speaking of staff—why not make use of non-violent inmates, who are conveniently located behind the old building, to work at the shelter? Other state prisons employ inmates to work at shelters. Tasks typically include cleaning the cells, organizing animal control equipment, and/or working in the office (where they can learn office skills).

4.) Once we have a shelter, the government can start enforcing the dog registration law already in existence. People can conveniently stop into the DMV to renew car registration and then run across the street to register dog(s).

5.) The public is more likely to use a conveniently located shelter. If dropping off an unwanted animal is made easy, people are more likely to act responsibly and take unwanted animals to the shelter. Likewise, if the shelter is conveniently located, people are more likely to adopt animals from the shelter.

6.) The more visible the shelter is to the public the more likely it will be run/operated in a humane manner.

7.) Lastly, using the old structure for an animal shelter shows the public that the government is serious about addressing the stray animal problem on Saipan.

Katie Busenkell
President of PAWS

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲82° ▼76°	▲82° ▼76°	▲82° ▼76°	▲82° ▼75°	▲81° ▼75°

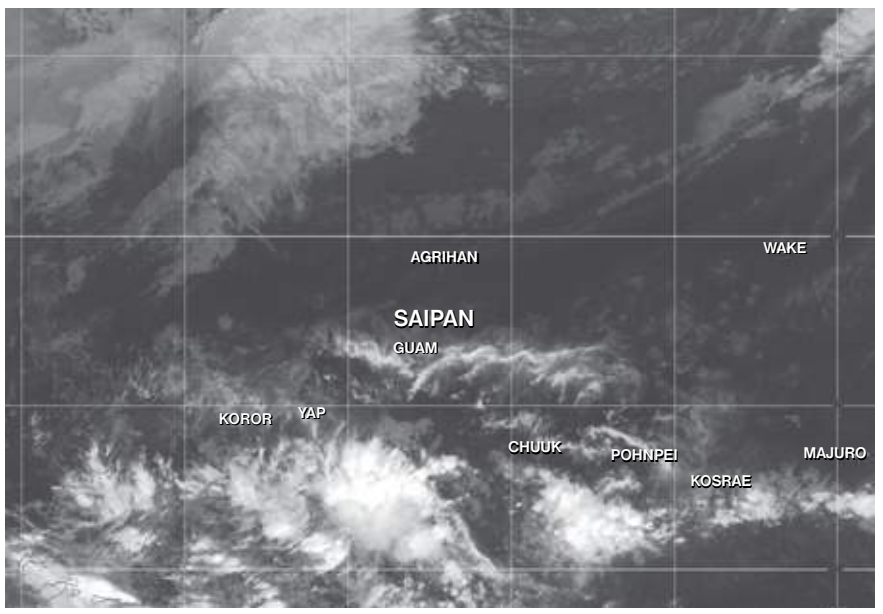
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼75
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼73
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼74
Majuro	Cloudy	▲85	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲72	▼62
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲29	▼15
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲59	▼50
Honolulu	Showers	▲77	▼70
London	Cloudy	▲55	▼43
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼46
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼74
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲69	▼49
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	▲82	▼66
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲44	▼34
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲43	▼27
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲51	▼42
Pusan	Sunny	▲42	▼22
Rome	Sunny	▲61	▼41
Salem	Rain	▲48	▼37
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲58	▼47
Seoul	Sunny	▲32	▼10
Tokyo	Sunny	▲48	▼32
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲50	▼32

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 6, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Western north pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180. A shear line curves southwestward from 25N158E through the Northern Marianas at 20N145E to 18N135E to beyond 130E at 20N. Patchy clouds and scattered showers are seen along this boundary and northward to beyond 25n. Trade-winds converging near the equator are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Koror between 1N and 5N from 130E to 138E. Numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms are found southeast of Yap between the equator and 4N from 138E to 146E. A weak surface trough extends northward from EQ145E to 7N145E. Trade-winds converging east of the trough axis are generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Chuuk and Pohnpei between 3N and 7N from 148E to 159E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
01:55AM Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
08:50AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
02:19PM Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
07:18PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:45AM	6:17PM
Friday	6:45AM	6:18PM
Saturday	6:44AM	6:18PM
Sunday	6:44AM	6:19PM
Monday	6:44AM	6:19PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	06:39AM	06:24PM
Friday	07:21AM	07:18PM
Saturday	08:00AM	08:12PM
Sunday	08:39AM	09:06PM
Monday	09:19AM	10:02PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 2, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 078	8:25am	1:30pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:50pm	7:30pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
NW 083	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:25am	11:05am	Daily
Saipan-Manila			
CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3
Saipan-Seoul			
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	4:00am	7:35am	1,4,5,7
Saipan-Guanzhou			
CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6
Saipan-Shanghai			
MU 590	4:20am	7:00am	2,6
Saipan-Beijing			
CA 988	3:15am	7:00am	1,5
Guam-Manila			
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7
Guam-Hongkong			
CO 909	7:45pm	10:40pm	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:35am	3:05pm	Daily
NW 077	6:15pm	1:10am+1	Daily via Nagoya
Osaka-Saipan			
NW 084	10:40am	3:10pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily
Manila-Saipan			
CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3
Seoul-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7
Guanzhou-Saipan			
CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5
Shanghai-Saipan			
MU 589	8:05pm	3:00am+1	1,5
Beijing-Saipan			
CA 987	6:05pm	1:55am+1	4,7
Manila-Guam			
CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	5:25am+1	3 via Koror
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Hongkong-Guam			
CO 910	11:40pm	6:20am+1	1,5
Rota-Guam			
CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Advertising Feature

Chinese New Year today begins the Year of the Rat

The Chinese New Year is the longest and most important celebration in the Chinese calendar. It is popularly recognized as the Spring Festival and celebrations last 15 days.

The Chinese year 4706 begins today, Feb. 7, 2008. The origin of the Chinese New Year is itself centuries old. The Chinese Lunar New Year is the longest chronological record in history, dating from 2,600 BC, when the Emperor Huang Ti introduced the first cycle of the zodiac

Chinese months are reckoned by the lunar calendar, with each month beginning on the darkest day. New Year festivities traditionally start on the first day of the month and continue until the 15th, when the moon is brightest. In China, people may take weeks of holiday from work to prepare for and celebrate the New Year.

See CHINESE on Next Page

Category 1: 4 to 9 years old
PTI
Your connection to the world
SGH Saipan Grand Hotel
A TanHoldings Company
Present
Saipan Singing Super Star
0201 Arriane Antonio
0202 Erika Tubera
0203 John Huevos
0204 Judy Anne Sanchez
0205 Lizelle Salanga
0206 Luouibelle Lavetoria
0207 Miguel Andrei Aninon
0208 Mozelle Campo
Vote for your own favorite contestant thru TEXT
Write their NAME and send it to their respective number
Example: write ARRIANE and send it to 0201
Visit www.pticom.com/textvoteresult/ for on line tabulation
Prepaid and Postpaid subscribers will be charged 10 cents per text vote
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:
FEB. 08, 2008 – FRIDAY FOOD FAIR
6PM Lobby of Saipan Grand Hotel
Competition for the 4 to 9 years old category
Top 3 winners to be announced
FEB. 15, 2008 – FRIDAY FOOD FAIR
6PM Lobby of Saipan Grand Hotel
Competition for the 9 to 13 years old category
Top 3 winners to be announced
FEB. 22, 2008 – FRIDAY FOOD FAIR
6PM Lobby of Saipan Grand Hotel
SHOWDOWN of the Top 3 winners of the two categories
Text votes results back to zero
FEB. 29, 2008
FRIDAY FOOD FAIR
6PM Lobby of Saipan Grand Hotel
GRAND FINALS
Category 2: 10 to 13 years old
0209 Annabel Manzo
0210 Carmela Lumbad
0211 Darren John Cajipo
0212 Maria Christine Castro
0213 Mary Antoinette Alovera
0214 Matthew Lopez
0215 Mikee Campo
0216 Noemi Benig
0217 Rizza Butalon
0218 Shandel Denice Cayabyab
0219 Sharmaine Cano
In cooperation with:
Saipan Tribune
Magic 100
Shirley's Coffee Shop
Home of the Best Fried Rice
For inquiries please call OSCAR YEMA at 2856616
Another exciting offer from the Grand!

Year of the Rat: A time for new beginnings

The Rat is the first sign of the Chinese zodiac and signifies new beginnings. This year is thus an appropriate time to start new ventures, especially groundbreakings. This includes new ideas, directions, and ways of doing things. It is a time to experiment and put plans into action, as there will be plenty of opportunities to achieve success. Something to consider is that which is begun now is likely to have long term consequences, so choose wisely to enrich your life.

Interestingly this is an equally good time for thinking and all kinds of intellectual endeavors. It is, also, a relatively good time to begin a new romance. Those in a relationship may want to consider raising it to the next level, to include marriage.

The year 2008 will be a year of possibilities, a time of progress; although, it may not generally be spectacular. Those who take the biggest risks could be disappointed. Everyone should, nevertheless, add something new to their life.

Rat

1912, 1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996

People born in the Year of the Rat are noted for their charm and attraction for the opposite sex. They work hard to achieve their goals, acquire possessions, and are likely to be perfectionists. They are basically thrifty with money. Rat people are easily angered and love to gossip. Their ambitions are big, and they are usually very successful. They are most compatible with people born in the years of the Dragon, Monkey, and Ox.

Prognosis for this year: The Rat year may not be as good to you as the kindly Pig year, especially since it is an Earth year and Earth drains your Rat luck. Making favorable deals, for example, will be more challenging. It should still be a good year for you, as you have eight good months ahead of you. If you avoid risk and rely on hard work to get ahead, you most likely will. You may get off to a slow start, but the latter part of the year will present more and better opportunities -- so be patient.

Ox

1913, 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997

People born in the Year of the Ox are patient, speak little, and inspire confidence in others. They tend, however, to be eccentric, and bigoted, and they anger easily. They have fierce tempers and although they speak little, when they do they are quite eloquent. Ox people are mentally and physically alert. Generally easy-going, they can be remarkably stubborn, and they hate to fail or be opposed. They are most compatible with Snake, Rooster, and Rat people.

Prognosis for this year: You will have six favorable and six unfavor-

See YEAR on Next Page

美国塞班中华总会

祝贺塞班岛全体华人同胞戊子年

好年好运好福气

家和人和万事和

新春快乐！万事如意！

CHINESE ASSOCIATION SAIPAN, CNMI

Lion Dance Schdule

10:30 am	Saipan Grand Hotel
11:00 am	Hyatt Regency Saipan
11:30 am	Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan
6:00 pm	Garapan Street Market
7:30 pm	Duty Free Shop (DFS Galleria)

Come and join us in our Chinese New Year Party in February 8, Friday from 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm.
For tickets, please call 234-7236 or visit the Canton Restaurant in Garapan.

Thank you to all our sponsors

9922/9933
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BANK OF SAIPAN
CANTON RESTAURANT
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CHINESE

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A Ratty Year

Legend has it that in ancient times, Buddha asked all the animals to meet him on Chinese New Year. Twelve came, and Buddha named a year after each one. He announced that the people born in each animal's year would have some of that animal's personality. Those born in rat years tend to be leaders, pioneers, and conquerors. They are charming, passionate, charismatic, practical and hardworking. Gwyneth Paltrow, Ben Affleck, Samuel L. Jackson, William Shakespeare, and Mozart were all born in the year of the rat.

Preparations

Preparations tend to begin a month from the date of the Chinese New Year (similar to a Western Christmas), when people start buying presents, decoration materials, food and clothing. A huge clean-up gets underway days before the New Year, when Chinese houses are cleaned from top to bottom, to sweep away any traces of bad luck, and doors and windowpanes are given a new coat of paint, usually red. The doors and windows are then decorated with paper cuts and couplets with themes such as happiness, wealth and longevity printed on them.

Fireworks and Family Feasts

At Chinese New Year celebrations people wear red clothes, decorate with poems on red paper, and give children "lucky money" in red envelopes. Red symbolizes fire, which according to legend can drive away bad luck. The fireworks that shower the festivities are rooted in a similar ancient custom. Long ago, people in China lit bamboo stalks, believing that the crackling flames would frighten evil spirits.

Family Reunion

In China, the New Year is a time of family reunion. Family members gather at each other's homes for visits and shared meals, most significantly a feast on New Year's Eve. The eve of the New Year is perhaps the most exciting part of the event, as anticipation creeps in. Here, traditions and rituals are very carefully observed in everything from food to clothing. Dinner is usually a feast of seafood and dumplings, signifying different good wishes. Delicacies include prawns, for liveliness and happiness, dried oysters (or ho xi), for all things good, raw fish salad or yu sheng to bring good luck and prosperity, Fai-hai (Angel Hair), an edible hair-like seaweed to bring prosperity, and dumplings boiled in water (Jiaozi) signifying a long-lost good wish for a family. It's usual to wear something red as this color is meant to ward off evil spirits - but black and white are out, as these are associated with mourning. After dinner, the family sit up for the night playing cards, board games or watching TV programs dedicated to the occasion. At midnight, the sky is lit up by fireworks. On the day itself, an ancient custom called Hong Bao, meaning Red Packet, takes place. This involves married couples giving children and unmarried adults money in red envelopes. Then the family begins to say greetings from door to door, first to their relatives and then their neighbors. Like the Western saying "let bygones be bygones," at Chinese New Year, grudges are very easily cast aside.

The Lantern Festival

Chinese New Year ends with the lantern festival on the 15th day of the month. Some of the lanterns may be works of art, painted with birds, animals, flowers, zodiac signs, and scenes from legend and history. People hang glowing lanterns in temples, and carry lanterns to an evening parade under the light of the full moon.

In many areas the highlight of the lantern festival is the dragon dance. The dragon—which might stretch a hundred feet long—is typically made of silk, paper, and bamboo. Traditionally the dragon is held aloft by young men who dance as they guide the colorful beast through the streets. Although celebrations of the Chinese New Year vary, the underlying message is one of peace and happiness for family members and friends.

Source: www.infoplease.com

YEAR

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able months this year. That may not look that great, but it does represent an improvement over last year. You should have as many opportunities as disappointments. Take care to exercise good judgment, and you will do fine. Unfortunately, it is an Earth year and the Earth drains Ox luck. This is not the time to take risks, especially those that are unnecessary or can be avoided. Hard work is more your style any way. The first six months are likely to be the most challenging, so be patient.

Tiger

1914, 1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998

Tiger people are sensitive, given to deep thinking, capable of great sympathy. They can be extremely short-tempered, however. Other people have great respect for them, but sometimes tiger people come into conflict with older people or those in authority. sometimes Tiger people cannot make up their minds, which can result in a poor, hasty decision or a sound decision arrived at too late. They are suspicious of others, but they are courageous and powerful. Tigers are most compatible with Horses, Dragons, and Dogs.

Prognosis for this year: The Rat year is likely to present more challenges than the Pig year, for you. Do not be surprised if you occasionally find you cannot get your way this year. In fact there are likely to be many of clashes of wills. The better you can keep your emotions under control, the more likely you are to achieve your goals. The Rat is comfortable with logic, not passion. You will have to carefully pick your battles, as you probably will not be blessed with many, good opportunities.

Rabbit

1915, 1927, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999

People born in the Year of the Rabbit are articulate, talented, and ambitious. They are virtuous, reserved, and have excellent taste. Rabbit people are admired, trusted, and are often financially lucky. They are fond of gossip but are tactful and generally kind. Rabbit people seldom lose their temper. They are clever at business and being conscientious, never back out of a contract. They would make good gamblers for they have the uncanny gift of choosing the right thing. However, they seldom gamble, as they are conservative and wise. They are most compatible with those born in the years of the Sheep, Pig, and Dog.

Prognosis for this year: The scratchy Rat often takes the Rabbit out of its comfort zone. So, this year is likely to be a lot more challenging than last year, especially since the Fire Pig year is one of your most favorable. The middle months of the year are likely to be the toughest. Although you want to avoid risk throughout the year, it is especially important during those months. You will best be able to take advantage of the good times if you can keep your emotions under control, especially when things don't go your way.

Dragon

1916, 1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000

People born in the Year of the Dragon are healthy, energetic, excitable, short-tempered, and stubborn. They are also honest, sensitive, brave, and they inspire confidence and trust. Dragon people are the most eccentric of any in the eastern zodiac. They neither borrow money nor make flowery speeches, but they tend to be soft-hearted which sometimes gives others an advantage over them. They are compatible with Rats, Snakes, Monkeys, and Roosters.

Prognosis for this year: Hopefully the Pig showered blessings on you last year. If not, don't worry. This year promises to be even better with your good friend the Rat in charge. You could enjoy success but this is still not the best of years, as Earth does not favor your luck. This is a year for avoiding risk. As a Dragon, you could be something of a dreamer. If so, this is the perfect year for you, since Earth promotes practicality. This means you have a good chance of realizing one of your big dreams.

Snake

1917, 1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001

People born in the Year of the Snake are deep. They say little and possess great wisdom. They never have to worry about money; they are financially fortunate. Snake people are often quite vain, selfish, and a bit stingy. Yet they have tremendous sympathy for others and try to help those less fortunate. Snake people tend to overdo, since they have doubts about other people's judgment and prefer to rely on themselves. They are determined in whatever they do and hate to fail. Although calm on the surface, they are intense and passionate. Snake people are usually good-looking and sometimes have marital problems because they are fickle. They are most compatible with the Ox and Rooster.

Prognosis for this year: This year promises to be a vast improvement over the last one. You are likely, for example, to experience exciting mental stimulation. If you use your brains you can produce some very good results in most areas of your life. Almost every month will provide opportunities, although you might want to take it easy right after the Chinese New Year. Next year should be even better, so you should take time to make plans and begin projects to be completed then.

Horse

1918, 1930, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002

People born in the Year of the Horse are popular. They are cheerful, skillful with money, and perceptive, although they sometimes talk too much. The are wise, talented, good with their hands, and sometimes have a weakness for members of the opposite sex. They are impatient and hot-blooded about everything except their daily work. They like entertainment and large crowds. They are very independent and rarely listen to advice. They are

See YEAR on Next Page

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most compatible with Tigers, Dogs, and Sheep.

Prognosis for this year: Alas, the Horse is the sign that fares least well in the year of the Rat. Still, the year will not be without opportunities. The trick will be to force yourself to rely more on your head than your heart. That is contrary to the Horse nature, so it won't be easy. The first month of the year could be your best one. Given this, it's important for you to make smart moves as soon as the New Year's partying is over. A quick start is especially important, as the last three months could be very challenging.

Sheep
1919, 1931, 1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003

People born in the Year of the Sheep are elegant and highly accomplished in the arts. They seem to be, at first glance, better off than those born in the zodiac's other years. But Sheep year people are often shy, pessimistic, and puzzled about life. They are usually deeply religious, yet timid by nature. Sometimes clumsy in speech, they are always passionate about what they do and what they believe in. Sheep people never have to worry about having the best in life for their abilities make money for them, and they are able to enjoy the creature comforts that they like. Sheep people are wise, gentle, and compassionate. They are compatible with Rabbits, Pigs, and Horses.

Prognosis for this year: After what was probably a very favorable, Pig, year this year might seem like a disaster. It is important, however, for you to understand that you are still looking at five, favorable months. There will thus be plenty of opportunities if you do not get down and let negative emotions get the best of you. Your natural inclination is most likely to follow your heart, but you will do much better this year if you can let your head dictate your actions.

Monkey
1920, 1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004

People born in the Year of the Monkey are the erratic geniuses of the cycle. Clever, skillful, and flexible, they are remarkably inventive and original and can solve the most difficult

See YEAR on Next Page

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YEAR

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problems with ease. There are few fields in which Monkey people wouldn't be successful but they have a disconcerting habit of being too agreeable. They want to do things now, and if they cannot get started immediately, they become discouraged and sometimes leave their projects. Although good at making decisions, they tend to look down on others. Having common sense, Monkey people have a deep desire for knowledge and have excellent memories. Monkey people are strong willed but their anger cools quickly. They are most compatible with the Dragon and Rat.

Prognosis for this year: The Monkey, of the 12 signs, is the one most likely to have the best year. Fortune smiles upon you with your big Rat friend in charge. If you are a typical, mentally quick and multi-talented Monkey, opportunities there will be aplenty. There is only one, major concern: The Achilles heel of both the Monkey and Rat is overconfidence. This could make you forget that the Tiger rules the first month and won't do you any favors. As good as the year is, therefore, a slow start is advisable.

Rooster

1921, 1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005

People born in the Year of the Rooster are deep thinkers, capable, and talented. They like to be busy and are devoted beyond their capabilities and are deeply disappointed if they fail. People born in the Rooster Year are often a bit eccentric, and often have rather difficult relationship with others. They always think they are right and usually are! They frequently are loners and though they give the outward impression of being adventurous, they are timid. Rooster people¡¦s emotions like their fortunes, swing very high to very low. They can be selfish and too outspoken, but are always interesting and can be extremely brave. They are most compatible with Ox, Snake, and Dragon.

Prognosis for this year: In general, none of the Rooster's traits appeal to, or are well tolerated by the Rat. After the Horse, the Rooster is the sign most likely to have a challenging year. There will, nevertheless, be a few opportunities. A cooperative attitude, and winning allies. are likely to be keys to your success. On the other hand, if you succumb to the Rooster propensity for arguing and quarrels, you could have a very difficult time. It is up to you to minimize the damage by displaying the right attitude.

Dog

1922, 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006

People born in the Year of the Dog possess the best traits of human nature. They have a deep sense of loyalty, are honest, and inspire other people's confidence because they know how to keep secrets. But Dog People are somewhat selfish, terribly stubborn, and eccentric. They care little for wealth, yet somehow always seem to have money. They can be cold emotionally and sometimes distant at parties. They can find fault with many things and are noted for their sharp tongues. Dog people make good leaders. They are compatible with those born in the Years of the Horse, Tiger, and Rabbit.

Prognosis for this year: This year may be a bit more challenging than the last, but it still has the potential to be very favorable. The Dog is more comfortable with the Pig, which symbolizes endings, rather than the Rat, which is associated with new beginnings. If you are willing to leave your comfort zone, you can make significant progress towards your objectives and also achieve one or more notable successes. As with most things, your attitude is likely to determine just how well you do.

Pig

1923, 1935, 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007

People born in the Year of the Pig are chivalrous and gallant. Whatever they do, they do with all their strength. For Boar Year people, there is no left or right and there is no retreat. They have tremendous fortitude and great honesty. They don't make many friends but they make them for life, and anyone having a Boar Year friend is fortunate for they are extremely loyal. They don't talk much but have a great thirst for knowledge. They study a great deal and are generally well informed. Boar people are quick tempered, yet they hate arguments and quarreling. They are kind to their loved ones. No matter how bad problems seem to be, Boar people try to work them out, honestly if sometimes impulsively. They are most compatible with Rabbits and Sheep.

Prognosis for this year: Major improvement is likely to be in store for you this year. It's ironic that the environment is likely to be more unsettling, while simultaneously providing more opportunities for success. A mental adjustment is required to maximize your potential. Although the Pig tends to look to the future, even to retirement, your focus should be squarely on the present. The future is now. Be alert for favorable situations and make the most of them.

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CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Nation

Obama, Clinton split Tuesday races

McCain wins key contests

WASHINGTON (AP)—Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton swapped victories in a coast-to-coast Super Tuesday struggle for delegates in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination. John McCain reached for command of the race for the Republican presidential nomination, sweeping a series of delegate-rich primaries along the East Coast.

Clinton, seeking to become the first female president of the United States, won in her home state of New York as well as in New Jersey, Massachusetts, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Missouri and Arkansas, where her husband, Bill Clinton, had been governor.

Obama, hoping to become the first black president, won in Georgia, Alabama, Delaware, Utah, North Dakota, Connecticut, Minnesota, Kansas and his home state of Illinois.

The results were among the first on the biggest primary day in U.S. history. Obama and Clinton, locked in a tight race, are hoping to become clear frontrunners in what could be a long race for their party's nomination.

McCain looked to use Tuesday's contests to build an insurmountable lead over main rival Mitt Romney, which effectively would wrap up the Republican nomination just months after McCain's campaign nearly unraveled.

McCain won in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Delaware to gain all 198 delegates at stake. He also put Illinois and Oklahoma in his column.

Romney won in Massachusetts, where he had served as governor, and Utah, where fellow Mormons supported his candidacy. He also won in North Dakota. Mike Huckabee, a Baptist preacher, also won in a state he had served as governor, Arkansas, as well as West Virginia, Georgia and Alabama.

Both Romney and Huckabee vowed to stay in the race. "We're going to win this thing," Romney told supporters in Boston.

Super Tuesday is the biggest event in the monthslong campaign to select U.S. presidential nominees. While early contests helped candidates build momentum, Tuesday's votes were about winning the delegates who will select the nominees. Democrats had 1,681 delegates at stake in 22 states and the territory of American Samoa. Republicans had 1,023 delegates in 21 states.

The allocation of delegates lagged the vote count by hours. That was particularly true for the Democrats, who divided theirs roughly in proportion to the popular vote in each state.

Nine of the Republican contests were winner take all, and that was where McCain piled up his lead.

McCain had 331 delegates to 129 for Romney and 69 for Huckabee. It takes 1,191 to clinch the presidential nomination at the party convention in September.

Overall, Clinton had 325 delegates to 259 for Obama, out of the 2,025 needed to secure victory at the party convention in August. Clinton's advantage is due to her lead among so-called superdelegates, members of Congress and other party leaders who are not selected in primaries and caucuses—and who also are free to change their minds.

Clinton had long been the front-runner in the Democratic race. Her campaign has emphasized her experience as a senator and first lady. Obama, a first-term senator, has offered a spirited challenge, carrying a message of change and hope after years of political gridlock in Washington.

AP

Jacob Lindstrom, 3, sits on the lap of his father, Doug, at the primary election polling place at the Clen Oak Christian Church in Peoria, Ill., on Super Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2008.

Exit polls: Obama gains with whites

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton was strongly supported by Hispanics and people seeking an experienced candidate, but Barack Obama was eating into her usual dominance of women and whites, in early national exit polls Tuesday. A coalition of black, young, white and higher-income voters were flocking to Obama.

On the Republican side, preliminary data from exit polls of voters in 16 states showed Sen. John McCain getting broad support, including strong backing from moderates and people valuing experience and leadership. He and Mitt Romney were battling for an edge among party regulars, while Romney had an advantage with the Republican Party's most conservative voters and people wanting a strong stance against illegal immigrants.

Obama, an Illinois senator, was getting support from more than four in 10 women and about the same number of whites, leaving him just a few percentage points behind Clinton, the former first lady. That was a narrower deficit than he has faced in most states that have held nominating contests so far, with part of his strength coming from people under age 44, whom he was dominating.

"I think Obama can bring a more radical change," said Linda Ster, 44, a social worker in Nashville, Tennessee. "I have voted for a Clinton already. I want something different—way different—this time."

In Oklahoma, a state Clinton won overall, there was no gender gap for her; she won among men and women. McCain won in Illinois, a state dominated by conservative Republican voters, in part because Huckabee and Romney split most of the conservative vote, while the three rivals shared support from evangelicals.

Nationally, Obama, who is aiming to become the first black U.S. president, was getting the backing of eight in 10 blacks, his usual margin. But Clinton, a New York senator, was countering with strong support from Hispanics, about six in 10 of whom were supporting her. Much of that strength came from Hispanic women and from the oldest Latino voters.

Obama was leading with liberals and had a modest advantage among white men, a group from which he has seldom received strong backing. Former Sen. John Edwards' decision to leave the race last week may have helped Obama with those voters. Obama and Clinton were about even with moderate and conservative Democrats.

About half of Democrats across the country said they want a candidate who will change things. As usual Obama was that group's overwhelming favorite, getting about seven in 10 of their votes. About one-fourth preferred experience, and Clinton was garnering virtually all of their votes.

Clinton had a clear lead with white women, with older white and Hispanic voters, and with lower educated and low-income people.

CNMI State Rehabilitation Council
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, hereby giving notice that the State Rehabilitation Council will hold Its FY 2008 2nd General membership meeting on February 20, 2008 at Giovanni's. Hyatt Regency Saipan from 9:30am- 1:30pm, Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Preliminaries
II. Roll Call
III. Review & Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review & Adoption of Minutes of December 19, 2007
V. Reports
A. Chairperson
B. OVR Director
IV. New Business
A. OVR Policies
B. OVR Case Services Manual
C. National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Council Resolution
D. Amendments to SAC By-Laws
E. Appointments of Committee Chairs
VII. Consumer Forum
VIII. Announcements/Miscellaneous
XI. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Individuals who wish to attend this meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language Interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537/6538 (voice) or 322-6449 (TM, Please contact Magin lginoef (Council Liaison) two days In advance for necessary arrangements.

/a/ **Gregorio Sablan**
SRC Chairperson

Publication of this notice was paid for with federal funds made possible by RSA of the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS).

World

AP

Sadr City's council officials prepare to hoist the new Iraqi flag in Baghdad, Iraq, Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2008.

Hundreds of civilians killed in Chad

N'DJAMENA, Chad (AP)—Hundreds of civilians have died in fierce fighting between rebels and government forces in Chad's capital, Red Cross officials said Tuesday, as the insurgents agreed to a cease-fire and their momentum faded. Former colonial power France threatened to enter the fight to support the government.

Chad's government told the French military it still was fighting rebels using "air power" outside of N'Djamena, the capital, according to French military spokesman Cmdr. Christophe Prazuck.

Chief rebel leader Mahamat Nouri charged they were being bombarded by French Mirage jets—but France said it had not yet gone on the attack. French intervention in the past helped stave off a major rebel attack in this oil-rich country on President Idriss Deby, accused by the insurgents of corruption and embezzling millions in oil revenue.

Tuesday, bodies lay rotting under a tropical sun in N'Djamena, according to a local reporter who left his home Tuesday for the first time since the rebels entered on Saturday.

Corpses of more than 10 military and civilian victims were sprawled across Avenue Mobutu, a main thoroughfare. The charred hulks of two tanks and several pickup trucks, used by both sides in the fighting, littered the streets.

Most downtown shops and buildings have been looted. Further from the center, the state broadcasting station and the parliament building were stripped by rampaging looters.

The Presidential Palace, which backs onto the Chari River, was off limits, the entrance blocked by tanks and tree limbs. Presidential Guards patrolled outside.

Chad Red Cross officials said hundreds of civilians have died, most from bullet wounds. The officials, who were driving around looking for wounded, said they were too scared to give their names.

More than 1,000 people have been wounded, the International Committee of the Red Cross said.

7 civilians killed in Philippine clash

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—At least seven civilians, including four children, were killed during a military operation against al-Qaida-linked militants on a southern Philippine island, officials said Tuesday.

The victims' families claimed they were killed before dawn Monday by soldiers searching for Abu Sayyaf militants who had abducted a businesswoman last week, Sulu provincial Gov. Sakur Tan said.

An off-duty soldier was also killed, Tan said.

The military said it will investigate.

Two soldiers and three militants were reported killed in the fighting in Maimbung township on Jolo island, part of Sulu, the military said.

Tan said the off-duty soldier was with the civilians and was allegedly tied up and shot by troops from elite U.S.-trained army and navy counterterrorism units.

Baby thrown from burning building, lives

LUDWIGSHAFEN, Germany (AP)—Trapped by smoke, the parents of a nine-month-old baby girl faced an excruciating dilemma: if they threw her out of the window, would she be caught four stories below?

The split-second decision paid off: Onur fell safely into the arms of a policeman below. The parents also survived, although the mother was still in a hospital Tuesday, two days after the blaze that killed nine people, including five children.

The drama at a building in southwestern Germany was captured in a series of photographs of the baby in freefall as a group of anguished adults, thick smoke billowing around them, looked on.

WORLD BRIEFS

Japan: Food poisoning may be deliberate

TOKYO (AP)—Pesticide-laced Chinese dumplings that sickened at least 10 people in Japan and triggered a nationwide scare were probably poisoned deliberately, Japan's health minister said Tuesday. The frozen dumplings, produced by China's Tianyang Food Processing Ltd., were contaminated with the pesticide methamidophos and blamed for a string of poisonings in December and January. Investigators, however, have found traces of the pesticide on the outside of the dumplings, rather than on the filling. The poison was also found in much higher concentrations than would be expected from residue from pesticides sprayed on vegetables. Health Minister Yoichi Masuzoe said that pointed to deliberate poisoning, rather than accidental contamination.

Bhutto's will made public

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Benazir Bhutto's party made public Tuesday the will in which she endorsed her husband to succeed her—a move that could polish his leadership credentials ahead of this month's elections. In the handwritten, one-page letter dated Oct. 16—two days before her return to Pakistan from exile and 2 1/2 months before her assassination—Bhutto urged supporters to keep up her struggle. "I fear for the future of Pakistan. Please continue the fight against extremism, dictatorship, poverty and ignorance," she wrote. Bhutto died on Dec. 27 in a bomb and gun attack as she left an election rally in Rawalpindi, a garrison city near the capital, Islamabad.

Philippines to ban incandescent bulbs

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines will phase out incandescent bulbs by 2010 in favor of more energy-efficient fluorescent globes to help cut greenhouse gas emissions and household costs, the president said Tuesday. Acknowledging similar moves in Canada and Australia, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo called for a ban on incandescent bulbs. "Like Australia, we should phase out incandescent lights by 2010," Arroyo said in her closing remarks at the Philippine Energy Summit. The Asian Development Bank, a technical adviser at the summit, lauded the Philippine plan as a first in Asia.

Peace Corps suspends work in Kenya

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—The Peace Corps said Tuesday it has suspended operations in Kenya after weeks of postelection violence, another blow to confidence as business leaders voiced concerns over the turmoil's effect on the economy. Unrest has devastated the nation's once-impressive economy, decimating its vital tourism industry and prompting foreign companies to consider pulling out, business leaders said. The Peace Corps said it was withdrawing its remaining 58 volunteers. After clashes first erupted, 86 volunteers were sent home in January.

8 dead in Israeli strikes in Gaza

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Israel killed eight Hamas militants Tuesday, firing missiles into the sandy courtyard of a Hamas police station as the Islamic militant group claimed responsibility for a bold strike inside Israel, the first suicide mission in over a year. The latest round of violence followed two weeks of anarchy on the Gaza-Egypt border that has heightened Israeli concerns that Islamic militants could use the chaos to infiltrate into Israel to carry out attacks.

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NOW SHOWING

Sweeny Todd: Demon Barber

Friday		4:05	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:25	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	7:25	

Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter
Thriller, Musical • Rated R

Synopsis

Benjamin Barker, a man unjustly sent to prison by a lecherous judge, vows revenge, not only for that cruel punishment, but for the devastating consequences of what happened to his wife and daughter. When he returns to reopen his barber shop, Sweeney Todd becomes the Demon Barber of Fleet Street who "shaved the heads of gentlemen who never thereafter were heard from again."

Meet the Spartans

Friday		4:20	7:10	9:35
Saturday	1:15	4:20	7:10	9:35
Sunday	1:15	4:20	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:10	

Diedrich Bader, Kevin Sorbo
Comedy • Rated PG13

Synopsis

From the creators of Scary Movie and Date Movie comes this tongue-in-cheek parody of the sword-and-sandal epics, dubbed Meet the Spartans. The 20th Century Fox production is written and directed by the filmmaking team of Jason Friedberg and Aaron Seltzer. Sure Leonidas may have nothing more than a cape and some leather underwear to protect him from the razor sharp swords of his Persian enemies, but that won't stop the brave leader and his team of thirteen warriors from defending their beloved homeland against a powerful invading force that includes the likes of a mutant Paris Hilton, the Transformers, the Ghost Rider and Rocky Balboa.

Sakal, Sakali, Saklolo

Friday		4:30	7:05	9:55
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:05	9:55
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:05	

Judy Ann Santos, Ryan Agoncillo
Comedy, Romance • Rated NR

Synopsis

Angie (Judy Ann Santos) and Jed (Ryan Agoncillo) are first-time parents who experience the joys and pains of raising a child. They realize that parenthood is extremely demanding that they learn to sacrifice their own interests for their baby. One day, Jed has to go abroad for a business convention. Angie decides to go along, leaving their child with their friends. This is when their mothers (Gloria Diaz and Gina Pareño) come in and take turns taking care of their child, which led to a total disaster.

Cloverfield

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:45
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Michael Stahl David, Mike Vogel
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG13

27 Dresses

Friday		4:15	7:20	10:00
Saturday	1:10	4:15	7:20	10:00
Sunday	1:10	4:15	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:20	

Katherine Heigl, James Marsden
Romantic Comedy • Rated PG13

The Bucket List

Friday		4:10	7:15	9:30
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:15	9:30
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:15	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	7:15	

Jack Nicholson, Morgan Freeman
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG13

Mad Money

Friday		4:25	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:25	7:30	

Diane Keaton, Queen Latifah
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG13

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Life & Style

Court papers: 'Manager' bullied Spears

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A restraining order against the man who's been at Britney Spears' side during her downward spiral portrays him as a Svengali figure who held her a virtual hostage in her home, drugged her, took over her finances and controlled the ravenous paparazzi "like a general."

The order against 33-year-old Sam Lutfi was based on a lengthy declaration from Spears' mother, Lynne, who says they met in October 2007, when he "essentially moved into Britney's home and has purported to take control of her life, home and finances."

Lynne Spears' account of a long, chaotic night at Britney's home depicted a drugged and confused pop star being led around by Lutfi, who was setting up pictures for the paparazzi even as she was spinning out of control.

The documents released by the court Tuesday ordered Lutfi to stay away from Spears, her homes, her parents and siblings' homes and the hospital where she is confined for psychiatric evaluation.

On Monday, Lutfi told The Associated Press in a text message: "I have no problems with anyone writing anything negative against me. My image is not of concern, hers is." He has not responded to further inquiry.

Lynne Spears said in the order that Lutfi "drugged Britney, he has cut Britney's home phone lines and removed her cell phone chargers. He yells at her. He claims to control everything - Britney's business manager, her attorneys and the security guards at the gate."

AP

In this video frame grab release by AP Television showing Sam Lutfi leaving UCLA medical center after visiting Britney Spears on Thursday evening, Jan .31,2008.

Much of the 6-page declaration centers on the night of Jan. 28, just a few days before Spears was whisked by police and ambulance to a hospital psychiatric ward, where she remained Tuesday night. Her mother outlined increasingly bizarre behavior through the night, and said her daughter asked at one point, "When do I get to see my babies?" to which Lutfi answered, "Wednesday."

Spears has been in court with ex-husband Kevin Federline over custody of their two small children, 1-year-old Jayden James and 2-year-old Sean Preston. She lost visitation rights last month after refusing to hand them back over to their father.

Lynne Spears described a harrowing night that stretched into the wee hours when she, her husband and a friend went to Britney's home because they'd heard Britney was crying after a fight with Lutfi. Once inside, Lynne Spears said she was told by Lutfi that her daughter was afraid to see her father, and only wanted her mother in the house.

Lynne Spears also said there were several photoggraphers present, who deferred to Lutfi. "The paparazzi reported to Sam and addressed him with great respect," she said. "They treated him like a general."

She said during the evening, "Sam had told Britney she was an unfit mother, a piece of trash and a whore, that she cares more about Adnan (Ghalib), her current boyfriend, than she cares about her kids and that she does not deserve her kids."

It was unclear how Lynne Spears knew details of the fight.

She said at one point, Lutfi told her, "You'd better learn that I control everything," and said he was the one giving Britney her medications and, "he told me if he weren't in the house to give Britney her medicine, she would kill herself."

She also alleged that Lutfi threatened her. "Then he said to me, 'If you try to get rid of me, she'll be dead and I'll piss on her grave.'"

Throughout the night, she said Britney continued to ask to see her children.

"What do I have to do to see them?" her mother quoted her as saying. "Sam responded, 'Take the pills I tell you to take.' Britney said, 'I don't like the pills and I don't like the psychiatrist. Can't I see another psychiatrist so I can see my babies?'"

At that point, Lynne Spears said, "Sam responded, 'If I told you to take 10 pills a day, you should do what I tell you to see your babies."

She said one time Lutfi raised his voice and said "Why don't you get back with Kevin (Federline)." Britney then said, "I'll do anything to get them back."

Lynne Spears described various medications in the house and said Lutfi told her he ground them up and put them in Britney's food to keep her quiet. "He told us that the doctor who is treating her now is trying to get her into a sleep-induced coma so that they could then give her drugs to heal her brain."

Late that same evening, she said Britney decided she needed to go to the drug store for lipsticks. Before they left the house, Lutfi took Britney upstairs and said he gave her something "to make her more lighthearted, happy and fun."

Maharishi Mahesh Yogi dies

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, a guru to the Beatles who introduced the West to transcendental meditation, died Tuesday at his home in the Dutch town of Vlodrop, a spokesman said. He was thought to be 91 years old.

"He died peacefully at about 7 p.m.," said Bob Roth, a spokesman for the Transcendental Meditation movement that the Maharishi founded. He said his death appeared to be due to "natural causes, his age."

Once dismissed as hippie mysticism, the Hindu practice of mind control that Maharishi taught, called transcendental meditation, gradually gained medical respectability.

He began teaching TM in 1955 and brought the technique to the United States in 1959. But the movement really took off after the Beatles visited his ashram in India in 1968, although he had a famous falling out with the rock stars when he discovered them using drugs at his Himalayan retreat.

With the help of celebrity endorsements, Maharishi—a Hindi-language title for Great Seer—parlayed his interpretations of ancient scripture into a multi-million-dollar global empire.

After 50 years of teaching, Maharishi turned to larger themes, with grand designs to harness the power of group meditation to create world peace and to mobilize his devotees to banish poverty from the earth.

Maharishi's roster of famous meditators ran from The Rolling Stones to Clint Eastwood and new age preacher Deepak Chopra.

Director David Lynch, creator of dark and violent films, lectured at college campuses about the "ocean of tranquility" he found in more than 30 years of practicing transcendental meditation.

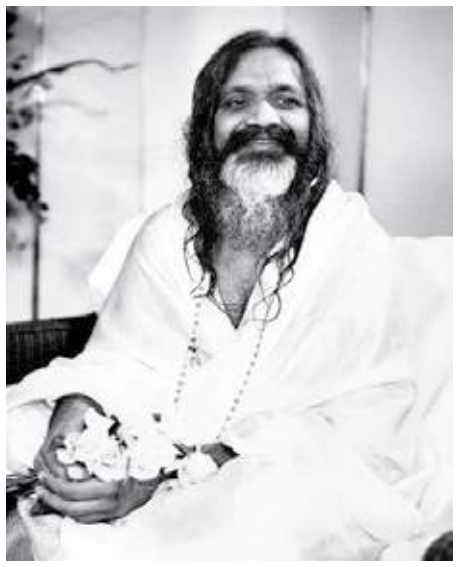
Some 5 million people devoted 20 minutes every morning and evening reciting a simple sound, or mantra, and delving into their consciousness.

"Don't fight darkness. Bring the light, and darkness will disappear," Maharishi said in a 2006 interview, repeating one of his own mantras.

Donations and the $2,500 fee to learn TM financed the construction of Peace Palaces, or meditation centers, in dozens of cities around the world. It paid for hundreds of new schools in India.

In 1971, Maharishi founded a university in Fairfield, Iowa, that taught meditation alongside the arts and sciences to 700 students and served organic vegetarian food in its cafeterias.

Supporters pointed to hundreds of scientific studies showing that meditation reduces stress, lowers blood pressure, improves concentration and raises results for students and businessmen.



AP

Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, founder of the International Meditation Society and "The City of Nations" in Kashmir, is seen in London, England, in this Aug. 24, 1967 file photo.

Maharishi was born Mahesh Srivastava in central India, reportedly on Jan. 12, 1917—though he refused to confirm the date or discuss his early life.

He studied physics at Allahabad University before becoming secretary to a well known Hindu holy man. After the death of his teacher, Maharishi went into a nomadic two-year retreat of silence in the Himalayan foothills of northern India.

Second wife frowns when dad taps on his daughter's tush

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My husband is 56. His daughter, "Loreen," from his first marriage is 35. At times when he gives her a hug (as she's leaving from a visit) he will slap her on the butt. This makes me uncomfortable because it seems inappropriate at her age. I have told him how this makes me feel; he says it's something he has always done with both of his children. (He also has a son.)

I guess I could see it as a playful gesture when they were kids, but at this point I don't think so. It reminds me of the kind of intimacy demonstrated between a husband and wife, not a father and daughter. Am I being too uptight?

—UNCOMFORTABLE IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR UNCOMFORTABLE: You have confused someone getting a "love pat" with someone being hit ON. Yes, I think in this case you are being too uptight, unless there is something else you have observed that you haven't told me.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm 16 and have a 13-year-old sister I'll call "Becky," who is mentally retarded. My mother recently tried to force me to promise that I'll always take care of Becky when she and Dad die or can no longer take care of her.

I think it's unfair to saddle me with a lifetime obligation like this. I have had to make many sacrifices because of Becky. I have to share a room with her and sleep with her in a double bed because she's afraid to sleep alone—even though we have a spare bedroom. I have never had a sleepover because Becky gets too upset with someone else sleeping in our room. I could go on and on.

I think I should be free of Becky as an adult. There are other alternatives for challenged individuals. Mother says it's my obligation because she's family. I don't believe it should be my lifetime obligation just because we're born to the same parents. What do you think?

—NO THANKS! SACRAMENTO, CALIF.

DEAR NO THANKS!: You appear to be very angry, and with some justification. You have already had too much responsibility thrust upon you. Your sister should have been taught to sleep by herself years ago, because eventually that's what she will have to do.

Your family obligation to your sister isn't necessarily the kind your mother is trying to coerce you into. If and when your parents become too incapacitated to care for Becky, a group living situation might be healthier for all concerned. Your sister may not have a life of her own until she makes that transition. Consider how lonely it must be for her to have no socialization beyond your parents.

While you do not have to keep your sister with you, you do have a moral obligation to see that she's well cared for. In that sense, your mother is right. But you certainly have a right to pursue your own life, career and family without anyone laying a guilt trip on you. And you do not have to sacrifice your happiness, or sleep with your sister, for the rest of your life and/or hers.

■ ■ ■

DEAR READERS: Today marks the lunar New Year. It's the Year of the Rat. Those born in the Year of the Rat are imaginative, charming and generous to those they love. Gung Hay Fat Choy!

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

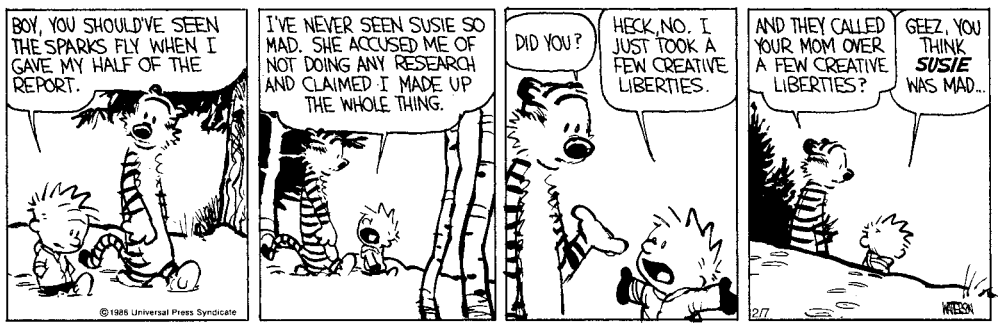
■ ■ ■

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

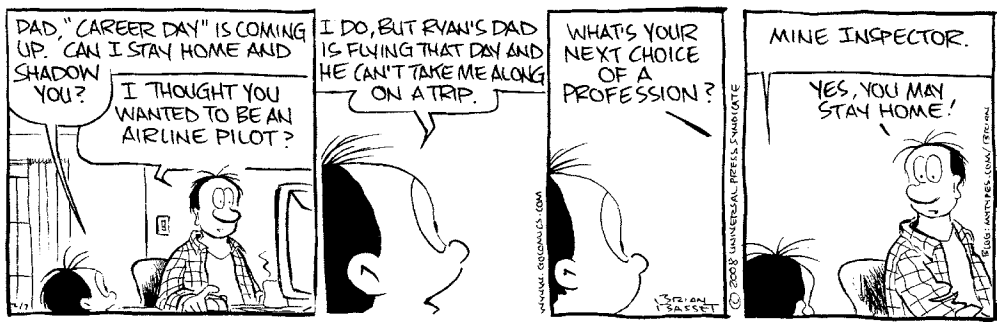

BOY, YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN THE SPARKS FLY WHEN I GAVE MY HALF OF THE REPORT.
I'VE NEVER SEEN SUSIE SO MAD. SHE ACCUSED ME OF NOT DOING ANY RESEARCH AND CLAIMED I MADE UP THE WHOLE THING.
DID YOU?
HECK, NO. I JUST TOOK A FEW CREATIVE LIBERTIES.
AND THEY CALLED YOUR MOM OVER A FEW CREATIVE LIBERTIES?
GEEZ, YOU THINK SUSIE WAS MAD...
©1988 Universal Press Syndicate
2/7
WATTERSON

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


DAD, "CAREER DAY" IS COMING UP. CAN I STAY HOME AND SHADOW YOU?
I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO BE AN AIRLINE PILOT?
I DO, BUT RYAN'S DAD IS FLYING THAT DAY AND HE CAN'T TAKE ME ALONG ON A TRIP.
WHAT'S YOUR NEXT CHOICE OF A PROFESSION?
MINE INSPECTOR.
YES, YOU MAY STAY HOME!
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BRIAN BASSET

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THIS STATION HAS THE OLDEST WEATHERMAN EVER!
HE'S NOT THAT OLD.
© 2004 Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
OW!
2/7
Glenn McCoy
OH YEAH? WHEN'S THE LAST TIME YOU'VE SEEN SOMEONE THROW HIS BACK OUT DOING AN EXTENDED FORECAST?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

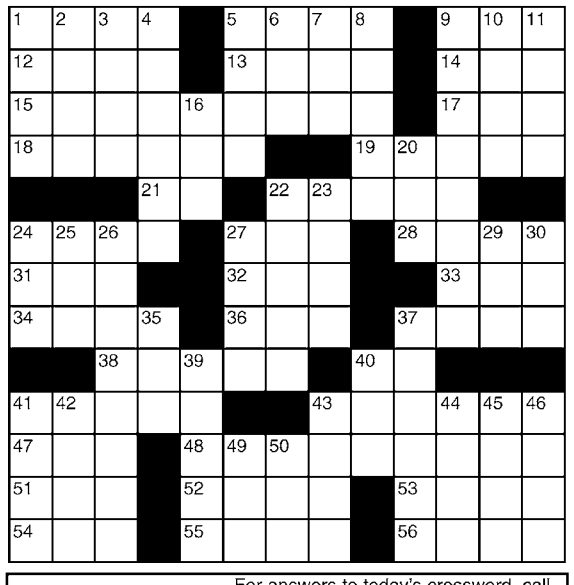
ACROSS
1 Venus de Milo's lack
5 Basilica area
9 King preceder
12 Mile fraction
13 Depilatory brand
14 Boxer
15 Hors d'oeuvre
17 Opposite of "post-"
18 Affleck's "Hollywoodland" role
19 Lubricated
21 Former mate
22 Tuesday, in Toulouse
24 Role in "Evita"
27 Not worth a —
28 Blue shade
31 Sound intensifier
32 "— Father, ..."
33 Sailors' org.
34 Navigator's stack
36 "There — tavern ..."
37 Dandelion, for one
38 Two under par
40 Constitution's first word
41 Estate house
43 Cooked eggs, in a way
47 Antique
48 "Samantha Who?" star
51 Omega preceder
52 Foolproof
53 Sharpen
54 Chicago team, for short
55 Winter forecast
56 Despot

DOWN
1 Somewhere out there
2 "Clue" weapon
3 Look dejected
4 Spielberg or Tyler
5 Blackbirds
6 Peace, to Pancho
7 "Sprechen — Deutsch?"
8 Slip-up
9 Garment decoration
10 Entice
11 On in years
16 Cowboy nickname
20 Actress Lupino
22 Click-and-drag device
23 Atmosphere
24 Bread spread
25 Ms. Thurman
26 Book supplement
27 Earth
29 Work with
30 Moreover
35 — Paulo
37 Statistic for a 14-Across
39 Tennis surface, sometimes
40 Affliction
41 Cleans the floors
42 As well
43 Puffed
44 Asian nation
45 Sicilian spouter
46 Antelope's playmate
49 Bit of wordplay
50 Expert

Solution time: 25 mins.

T	E	C	H	■	G	P	A	■	S	K	A	T
A	L	O	E	■	L	A	H	■	T	A	M	E
C	A	L	A	M	I	N	E	■	I	L	E	X
K	N	A	V	E	S	■	A	R	R	A	N	T
■	■	■	E	A	T	■	D	I	S	H	■	■
A	R	C	■	L	E	G	■	G	U	A	R	D
B	I	A	S	■	N	O	W	■	P	R	E	Y
C	O	L	E	S	■	D	O	G	■	I	V	E
■	■	■	A	R	I	A	■	B	A	R	■	■
M	I	M	E	R	S	■	B	L	U	E	S	Y
O	M	A	N	■	K	A	L	A	M	A	T	A
P	A	R	E	■	E	R	E	■	B	R	E	W
E	M	I	R	■	D	I	D	■	A	L	M	S

Yesterday's answer 2-7



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tina Majorino, 23; Ashton Kutcher, 30; Chris Rock, 43; Garth Brooks, 46

Happy Birthday: Stand up for what you feel is right. What you do this year will bring results next year, so be a participant, a Good Samaritan and a loyal and dedicated friend. Take action this year; let go of past problems and move forward in all aspects of life. Your numbers are 6, 21, 22, 26, 35, 42

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): It may be difficult to get the people you are trying to impress to recognize your talents, so don't waste your time. Support the underdog or a cause. It will be your kind and generous actions that will capture attention. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Put time aside for love, romance, travel or anything else exciting and fun. Plan to meet new friends or take part in activities that interest you. Set the stage for new beginnings. Serious progress can be made personally. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Offer your services to those who may be willing to pay top dollar for them. You have more to offer than you realize, so don't wait for things to come to you. Show your worth and ask for what you feel you deserve. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Position yourself so you can view or experience other life choices or ethnic or cultural differences. The more you are subjected to new concepts, ideas and lifestyles, the easier it will be to define what you want. Travel will spark renewed hope for your future. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Conclude the deal, develop partnerships, settle differences or even sign a new contract. If you take action, you will get what you want. You can build a great support system. Cover your back and do what's necessary. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Look around and you will realize how much you actually have. By being assertive, you can manipulate whatever situation you face. This is no time to let anger or jealousy step into the picture, causing havoc. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Reassessing what's going on around you will nudge you to make changes. Be creative and you will find solutions. New pastimes, hobbies or even a new approach to how you deal with your lover, friends or relatives will set a positive direction. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Be smart about what's going on around you. If you let your heart lead the way and trust your emotions, you will make mistakes. You are likely to overreact to a situation today. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Everything should be about pleasure, entertainment and finding new people, places and things that amuse you. Getting too serious about anything at this particular time will be a waste. Learning how to have fun will remind you what life is actually about. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You will have no shortage of good ideas or plans to get underway. Your goal to achieve personal and financial freedom is within reach if you take action. By incorporating your plans, you will speed things up, leaving a great impression on your peers and superiors. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Get involved in the action. Physical activity or making adjustments that will enhance your looks or bring you greater appeal should be scheduled in. You will be quick to respond to whatever anyone challenges you with. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You may find that you are alienated if you keep secrets from the people who love and trust you. Be careful—you may not be able to reverse a situation once you put it into play. Focus on building stronger relationships. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are insightful and know instinctively what to do. You are loyal, steadfast and true to those you love. You are a humanitarian.

Eugenia's Web sites: **astroadvice.com** *for fun,* **eugenialast.com** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

2		5	4					3
	9						1	
			5	1				6
						4		2
		7				8		
6		8						
8				6	3			
	7						8	
9					4	7		5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	7	5	3	8	9	2	1	4
1	8	4	2	7	5	6	3	9
9	2	3	6	1	4	8	5	7
8	9	7	4	5	2	3	6	1
2	5	6	1	9	3	4	7	8
3	4	1	7	6	8	9	2	5
4	1	2	8	3	7	5	9	6
5	6	8	9	2	1	7	4	3
7	3	9	5	4	6	1	8	2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/06

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU **Solution: 7 letters**

E	Y	R	D	S	F	I	R	M	S	Ⓛ	Ⓞ	Ⓖ	Ⓞ	C
I	S	S	U	E	E	A	E	R	E	Y	L	E	L	A
S	R	I	E	X	T	L	C	G	E	L	S	A	E	R
P	E	S	M	P	B	S	A	I	E	G	I	T	E	E
R	V	C	O	O	Y	L	U	S	L	R	A	N	E	B
O	O	O	R	S	R	H	U	R	T	I	W	N	L	M
T	R	P	A	E	T	P	C	A	T	O	T	W	A	E
E	T	E	L	U	S	O	M	O	E	S	E	A	U	M
C	N	N	R	O	U	E	G	O	E	R	C	P	T	R
T	O	T	O	N	D	E	G	N	C	T	U	U	U	E
I	C	M	C	S	N	S	O	R	I	J	K	B	M	P
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B	U	Y	E	R	S	Y	E	L	A	C	I	H	T	E

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Actions, Bureau, Buyer, Care, Case, Charges, Clubs, Company, Compromise, Controversy, Council, Crew, Ethical, Expose, Facilitate, Fair, Fees, Firms, Honest, Industry, Issue, Join, Legal, Liaison, Logo, Manager, Member, Moral, Mutual, Negotiate, Owner, Problem, Protection, Public, Report, Safe, Sales, Scope, Sell, Strict, System, Talk, Trial, Trusted, Truth, Visit

Yesterday's Answer: Regulations

WONDERWORD offers the **"Book of Celebrities,"** for $5.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Press Syndicate plus $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-6734, ext. 6688. Order online at upuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

As added service to our valued customers, you may now submit all your JVA placements for announcement/publication in *Saipan Tribune*'s print and online edition and KZMI/KCNM at the same time. No more worries of having to go to two different locations every time you need to place job vacancy announcements. Special rates are available for JVA customers under this arrangement.

Print*

• 1st position	$10
• 2nd position	$3
• Succeeding positions	$1

LOWER RATES! Effective Feb. 3, 2007

Combo (Print and Online)*

• 1st position	$13
• 2nd position	$4
• Succeeding positions	$2

Radio (KCNM/KZMI)

• Up to 6 positions	$5
• More than 6 positions	$10

*These rates apply to all vacancy announcements that include corresponding benefits and which announcements are all under the same company name.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.
- KCNM/KZMI: All ads placed on Friday (9am to 5pm) will be for Monday's radio announcement.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

FOR RENT RESIDENTIAL

Apartment For Rent (in Beach Road, Garapan) One (1) Bedroom fully furnished with back-up generator and 24 hour water, washer & dryer facilities in the building. For inquiries, pls. call 322-6183

Apartment Room for Rent
2 bed room $230.00, Koblerville.
Contact: 288-0728.

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water $210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

HAIRSTYLIST/BEAUTICIAN WANTED
Call 235-1425 RAY/NANCY

FOR SALE
19 FT. BOAT YAMA W/ENGINE
1 PICK-UP TOYOTA TACOMA
CALL 878-2665, 322-2118

WANTED TO BUY A BOAT
Serious buyer looking for 30+ ft. powered boat, ready to use, no repairs needed.
CALL 256-7000.
Leave message.

MOVING OUT SALE
WED-FRI 8AM-5PM
FEB. 6-8, 2008
Atdao St., Dandan
across Javilli Store
483-0951

DICKERSON & QUINN
INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTORS

Dickerson & Quinn is a leading wholesaler, distributor and manufacturer's representative. We have an opening for a

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

- ❏ This position may initially be on a part-time basis however experienced, qualified applicants only able to accept a full time position will be considered.
- ❏ Experience in wholesale or hospitality industry a plus.
- ❏ Must have own reliable transportation. Expenses will be reimbursed through a generous car plan.
- ❏ Some computer skills required.
- ❏ Professional image with excellent communication skills.
- ❏ The successful applicant will be result oriented and must be well organized, flexible, reliable, punctual, and a self-starter.
- ❏ High School graduate minimum.
- ❏ The succesful applicant only will be required to provide a police clearance.
- ❏ Local Hire or I.R. only please.
- ❏ Applications close February 19th.

Dickerson & Quinn / D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd. is an equal opportunity employer .

For more information, please call 235 2706, or apply in person at Chalan Kiya Industrial Center #4. Fax 235 2711.
E-mail d&q@saipan.com

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

WORLDLYYY

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Find today's solution in this section

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 SPORTS INSTRUCTOR (TH 4652)
Salary:$4.17/hour. Benefits: Free housing except utility; workers compensation; & medical bill is company provided. Contact: Big Boy Marine Sports, Inc. dba Big Boy'z II Marine @234-3358.

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1 ACCOUNTANT (TH 4653)
Salary:$650.00-$2,600.00/monthly. Benefits: Workers compensation by the employer; transportation to and from the job site by the employer; housing by the employer & medical at 80% by the employer and 20% bye the employee. Contact: Triple L Corporation dba Pacific Power House Co., @322-6183.

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1 WAITER/WAITRESS (TH 4654)
Salary:$3.05-$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: China Yanbian Frgn. Eco. & Tech. Coop. Corp. dba Seoul One Restaurant/Shinsen Restaurant @233-1900/233-1600.

3 COOK (TH 4655)
Salary:$3.05-$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: China Yanbian Frgn. Eco. & Tech. Coop. Corp. dba Seoul One Restaurant/Shinsen Restaurant @233-1900/233-1600.

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1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (TH 4656)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: Saipan Magellan, Inc. dba Apple's Bar & Restaurant @285-7890.

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1 HOUSEWORKER (TH 4657)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/deductible housing; $50.00/deductible food & medical provided. Contact: Manuela A. Babauta @323-6550.

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1 GROUND MAINTENANCE (TH 4658)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical provided & workman compensation. Contact: Juan L. Babauta @323-6550.

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1 CARPENTER (TH 4659)
Salary:$3.75/hour. Benefits: Workman's compensation & medical. Contact: Jesus R.A. Sonoda dba Chamorro House Enterprises @233-2600.

Name: Rubyjean Blas
Address: PMB 265 Box 10000
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: 256-7829 (hm)

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petition for the Change of Name of: Rubyjean Blas, Petitioner	FCD-CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0704 NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on February 11, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom **205A**, before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

WHATZIT Solution:
Worldly wise

1 BLDG. MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (TH 4660)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: Wang Jing Corporation dba Pacific Handicrafts @483-0527/235-8700.

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1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (TH 4661)
Salary:$3.05-$3.50/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical benefits & workers compensation. Contact: RPM Corporation dba Reliable Gen. Contractor Reliable Gen. Maint. Service @234-3763/7763.

1 STEEL WORKER (TH 4662)
Salary:$3.05-$3.50/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical benefits & workers compensation. Contact: RPM Corporation dba Reliable Gen. Contractor Reliable Gen. Maint. Service @234-3763/7763.

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1 BARTENDER (TH 4663)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Housing provided; self arrange food. Contact: Milne & Reyes Enterprises dba Joe's Bar & Grill @235-6657.

2 COOK (TH 4664)
Salary: $3.55/hour. Benefits: Housing provided; self arrange food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Milne & Reyes Enterprises dba Joe's Bar & Grill @235-6657.

1 COOK HELPER (TH 4665)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Housing provided; self arrange food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Milne & Reyes Enterprises dba Joe's Bar & Grill @235-6657.

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1 ELECTRICAL ENGINEER (TH 4666)
Salary:$1,250.00/monthly. Benefits: Self provide food; medical provided & workers compensation coverage. Contact: GTS Enterprises, Inc. dba GTS Construction @234-8803/04.

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1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (TH 4667)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical coverage. Contact: Juan T. Guerrero & Assoc., Inc. @234-8803/04.

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1 BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (TH 4668)
Salary:$4.00/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation employer provided. Contact: Gualo Rai Center, Inc. @234-6552.

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1 AUTOCADD DRAFTMAN (TH 4669)
Salary:$10.00/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation employer provided. Contact: Meridian Land Surveying, LLC @234-6552.

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1 SALES (MANAGER) (TH 4670)
Salary:$4.50/hour. Benefits: Free housing; free food; medical coverage expenses & workers compensation. Contact: ADPIA Communication Inc. dba Pink House @235-4499.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 HOUSEWORKER (TH 4671)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/housing monthly deduction; $100.00/food monthly deduction; medical coverage expenses & workers compensation. Contact: Joe and Corazon Ada @285-6611.

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1 DRESS MAKER (TH 4672)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; medical coverage expenses & workers compensation. Contact: Perla Marquez dba Holiday Shop @233-6910.

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1 FOOD ATTENDANT (TH 4673)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical reimbursement; transfer permit & workers compensation. Contact: Wall Street Empire, Inc. dba Barbeque Treats @234-3663.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (TH 4674)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical reimbursement & workers compensation. Contact: Wall Street Empire, Inc. dba Rugs to Riches Manpower @234-3663.

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1 BEAUTICIAN (TH 4675)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self arrange food; workmens & health expense company provided. Contact: Genoveva's Hair Power Inc. dba Genoveva's Salon for Men & Women @234-6378.

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1 RESTAURANT SUPERVISOR (TH 4676)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/monthly housing; $100.00/deductible food; workmens & health expenses company provided. Contact: D'Elegance Ent., Inc. dba D'Elegance Rest. @234-9227.

7 COOK (TH 4677)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/monthly housing; $100.00/deductible food; workmens & health expenses company provided. Contact: D'Elegance Ent., Inc. dba D'Elegance Rest. @234-9227.

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1 BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (TH 4678)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/deductible housing; $100.00/deductible food & medical provided. Contact: Margarita DLG. Castro @235-0627.

1 HOUSEWORKER (TH 4679)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/deductible housing; $100.00/deductible food & medical provided. Contact: Margarita DLG. Castro @235-0627.

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1 ACCOUNTANT (TH 4680)
Salary:$634.46-$900.00/monthly. Benefits: Workmen's compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: G.C.G. & Company, Inc. @322-7166.

2 CARPENTER (TH 4681)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Workmen's compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: G.C.G. & Company, Inc. @322-7166.

1 PAINTER (TH 4682)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Workmen's compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: G.C.G. & Company, Inc. @322-7166.

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1 INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (TH 4683)
Salary:$3.55-$6.00/hour. Must pass a drug-free periodic test. Able to lift 60lbs. Benefits: $175.00/monthly housing benefits; self provided food; medical insurance coverage & workmens compensation coverage. Contact: Fleet Marine, LLC. dba Fleet Marine Trading @233-0744.

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1 PRIVATE NURSE (TH 4684)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Work compensation. Contact: Salim M. Reza @233-0495.

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1 FARMER (TH 4685)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmen's & medical coverage. Contact: Juan T. Guerrero & Assoc., Inc. dba GTS Enterprises Inc. @234-8803/04.

2 MASON (TH 4686)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provided food; workmen's & medical coverage. Free transportation to & from work place. Contact: Juan T. Guerrero & Assoc., Inc. dba GTS Enterprises Inc. @234-8803/04.

2 CARPENTER (TH 4687)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provided food; workmen's & medical coverage. Free transportation to & from work place. Contact: Juan T. Guerrero & Assoc., Inc. dba GTS Enterprises Inc. @234-8803/04.

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1 HOUSEWORKER (TH 4688)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Employer provided housing; employer provided food; workmen's compensation & medical coverage. Contact: Juan T. Guerrero & Assoc., Inc. @234-8803/4.

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32 SECURITY GUARD (TH 4689)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided food; medical provided & workmen's compensation coverage. Contact: Juan T. Guerrero & Associates, Inc. dba GTS Security @234-8803/4.

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1 ACCOUNTANT (TH 4690)
Salary:$4.00/hour. Benefits: Employer provided housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical coverage. Contact: Juan T. Guerrero & Assoc., Inc. dba Paras Enterprises Saipan @234-8803/4.

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1 ASST. FACTORY MANAGER (TH 4691)
Salary:$3.55-$5.00/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

2 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (TH 4692)
Salary:$3.55-$4.75/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

69 SEWER, HAND (TH 4693)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

1 QUALITY ASSURANCE SUPERVISOR (TH 4694)
Salary:$3.55-$4.50/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

1 (BLDG) MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (TH 4695)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

1 FACTORY MANAGER (TH 4696)
Salary:$3.55-$5.50/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

1 SEWING MACHINE MECHANIC (TH 4697)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

6 SEWER, HAND HELPER (TH 4698)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

2 QUALITY CONTROL CHECKER (TH 4699)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

2 MAINT. MECH. SUPERVISOR (TH 4700)
Salary:$3.55-$6.30/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

2 INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER (TH 4701)
Salary:$3.55-$4.50/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

1 COOK (TH 4702)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

1 CLERK, GENERAL (TH 4703)
Salary:$3.55-$4.20/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

1 ASSISTANT WAREHOUSE SUPERVISOR (TH 4704)
Salary:$3.55-$3.90/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

1 GENERAL MANAGER (TH 4705)
Salary:$2,000.00/monthly. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Onwel Manufacturing (Saipan), Ltd. @234-9522.

1 POWER HOUSE MECHANIC (TH 4706)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; medical insurance & worker compensation. Contact: Heroge Ent., Inc. dba Diesel Equip Service Retail Diesel Equip @234-3588.

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1 SALES REPRESENTATIVE (TH 4707)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self housing; self food; worker compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Heroge Ent., Inc. dba Mountain Fresh Water. @234-3588.

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1 NURSERY SCHOOL ATTENDANT (TH 4708)
Salary:$3.55-$4.00/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical expense reimbursable. Contact: Golden Harvest Int'l School dba School @235-4655.

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1 ACCOUNTANT (TH 4709)
Salary:$3.55-$9.00/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation; life insurance & medical. Contact: Saipan Shipping Company, Inc. @322-9706/07.

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1 WAITRESS/WAITER (TH 4710)
Salary:$3.05-$3.10/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Kumanomi Island Co., Ltd. @233-6298.

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1 SUPERVISOR (TH 4711)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: J.T.M. Corporation @233-5436.

2 WAITRESS/WAITER (TH 4712)
Salary:$3.05-$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: J.T.M. Corporation @233-5436.

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1 SALES REPRESENTATIVE (TH 4713)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Nippon General Trading Corp. @233-8223.

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1 COOK (TH 4714)
Salary:$3.05-$3.55/hour. Benefits: Company provided housing; workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: M Samwa Planning Ltd. @235-7102.

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1 GRAPHIC ARTIST (TH 4715)
Salary:$3.05-$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Asia Pacific Industries Inc. @233-9219.

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2 COOK (TH 4716)
Salary:$3.05-$3.30/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Kei Enterprises Co., Ltd. @234-3038.

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1 MANAGER (TH 4717)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical benefits. Contact: Sterling Corporation @233-7766.

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1 ART TEACHER (TH 4718)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Chinese Bible Church Int'l Inc. dba Eucon International School @234-3203.

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1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (TH 4719)
Salary:$795.66/monthly. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical insurance. Contact: CWM International Inc. dba Eucon International College @234-3203.

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1 SALES REPRESENTATIVE (TH 4720)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical; surety bond & worksmen compensation. Contact: ASG Corporation dba Elite Printing @288-6465.

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1 EDITOR (TH 4721)
Salary:$1,000.00/montly. Benefits: $50.00/housing deduction; self provided food; surety bond; medical & worksmen compensation. Contact: ASG Corporation dba Island Locator @288-6465.

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1 ADMIN. ASSISTANT (TH 4722)
Salary:$4.05-$5.00/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Anthony C. Ayuyu @285-5173

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Shaq reportedly may be traded to Suns

MIAMI (AP)—Shaquille O'Neal is prepared for the Miami Heat to trade him, a confidant of the 14-time All-Star center told The Associated Press on Tuesday night.

O'Neal's associate, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to reveal anything publicly, indicated a move could be imminent.

"Shaq thinks something will happen," the associate said.

The Miami Herald reported earlier Tuesday that the Heat are in "serious and ongoing" trade negotiations with the Phoenix Suns. A Heat spokesman said the team had no comment, and several Suns officials didn't immediately return phone calls from The AP.

The Herald report said the Suns would send Shawn Marion and Marcus Banks to Miami in exchange for O'Neal, who is averaging a career-low 14.2 points and has been sidelined for the past two weeks by a lingering hip injury.

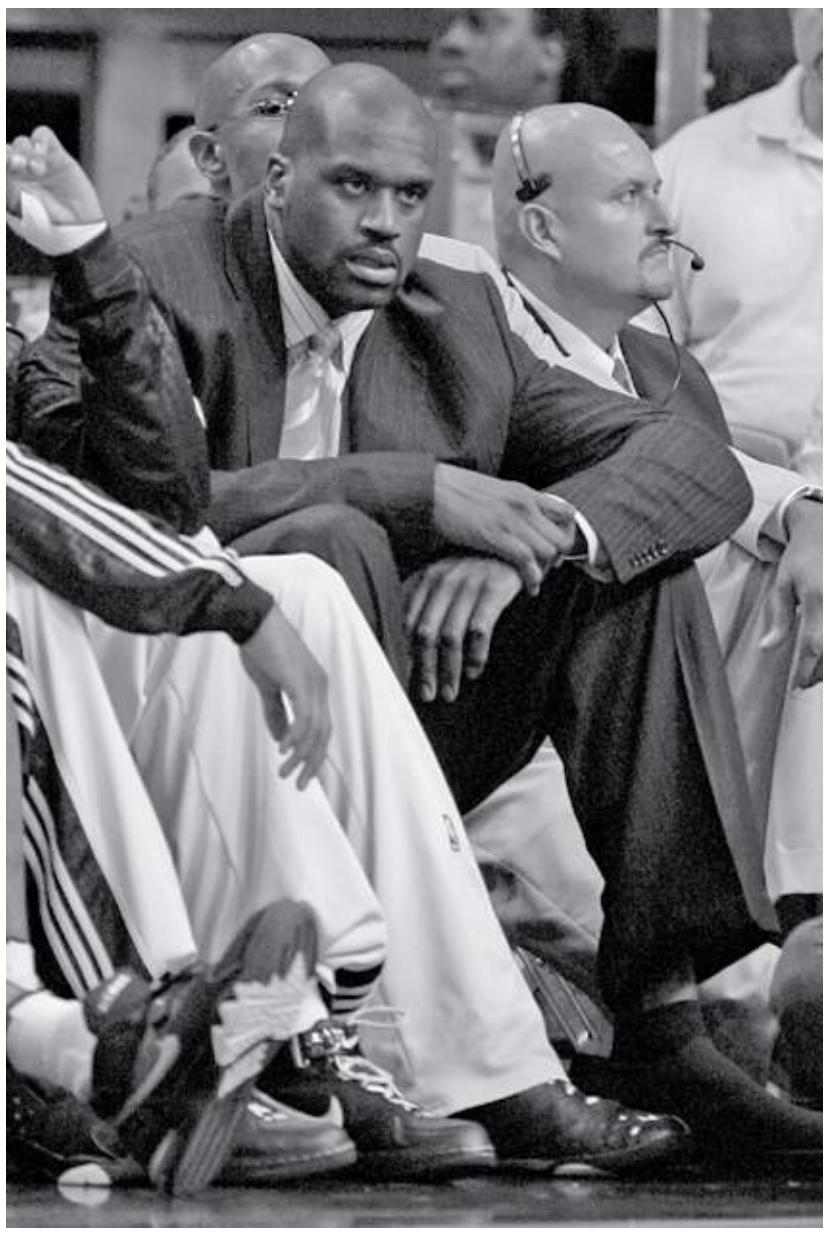
When asked last week about another report that a Shaq trade was possible, Heat coach Pat Riley said, "Not true."

It isn't known if O'Neal—who has two full seasons remaining after this one on his $100 million, five-year contract—would welcome a trade.

A four-time NBA champion, O'Neal entered this season talking about how he wanted to win at least one more title, saying his "legacy" wouldn't be complete unless he left the game with at least five rings.

If he's going to get No. 5 this year, he'd have to go elsewhere.

The Heat have lost 19 of their last 20 games and have the NBA's worst record at 9-37—meaning the 2006 NBA champions are almost a lock to miss the postseason. Phoenix, meanwhile, entered Tuesday with a 1 1/2-game lead over New Orleans and Dallas in the race for the best record in the Western Conference.



AP

Miami Heat center Shaquille O'Neal, center, sits on the bench during the first quarter of the Heat's NBA basketball game against the Indiana Pacers in this Jan. 26, 2008 file photo.

To this point, O'Neal's year has been largely forgettable.

Miami's record has plummeted, O'Neal is going through a divorce and his scoring average is nearly 11 1/2 points below his 25.6 career mark. He suffered a bruised hip on Dec. 22 and has missed four of the past five weeks while trying to recover.

The team said he was undergoing another MRI exam on Tuesday, presumably to further determine the extent of the injury, and O'Neal didn't speak before leaving Miami's practice. The Heat play at Detroit on Wednesday.

Last Friday, O'Neal said he and Riley have not discussed any trade possibilities.

"He hasn't spoken to me," O'Neal said at the time. "He hasn't talked about it. I've been in the league 15 years. I've seen it all, been through it all. I've just got to sit back."

Suns coach Mike D'Antoni said on his weekly radio show on Sports 620 KTAR in Phoenix Tuesday night that the story caught him by surprise.

"The trade deadline's coming up so I'm sure there's talk all over the place," he said. "In our day and age now, you make one of those phone calls or answer a phone call everybody in the world knows about it. Other than normal business, I don't know anything that's going on."

Asked if any deal was close, D'Antoni said "No, no, no."

Marion asked to be traded before the season began but has avoided talk of the subject since then. He is set to make $17 million next season, the final year of his contract, but can opt out of the deal and become a free agent.

Suns owner Robert Sarver said two weeks ago that none of the core players would be traded this season.

Neither Sarver nor Phoenix general manager Steve Kerr returned messages left on their cell phones.

Roger Clemens speaks under oath to Congress

WASHINGTON (AP)—Roger Clemens' most meaningful denial of drug use so far was also the most well-guarded.

The star pitcher gave a sworn deposition for about five hours to congressional lawyers behind closed doors Tuesday, addressing his former personal trainer's allegations. And this time, Clemens was under oath.

"I just want to thank the committee, the staff that I just met with. They were very courteous," the seven-time Cy Young Award winner said, wearing a pinstriped gray suit instead of a pinstriped New York Yankees uniform. "It was great to be able to tell them what I've been saying all along—that I've never used steroids or growth hormone."

Tuesday's deposition was the first time Clemens faced legal risk if he were to make false statements. Home run king Barry Bonds, another player linked to steroid use, was indicted in November on charges of perjury and obstruction of justice for telling a grand jury in 2003 that he didn't knowingly take performance-enhancing drugs.

In the 1 1/2 months since former Senate majority leader George Mitchell released his report on drug use in baseball, Clemens strongly and repeatedly denied what his former personal trainer, Brian McNamee, said—in statements by his lawyers, in a written statement, in a video statement, during a taped TV interview and in a live news conference.

Clemens spoke Tuesday with staffers from the same House panel that—after the Mitchell Report came out—asked the Justice Department to look into whether 2002 AL MVP Miguel Tejada lied when he told committee investigators in 2005 that he never took performance enhancers and had no knowledge of other players using or talking about steroids. The FBI's field office in Washington is handling that inquiry.

"Roger hasn't declined to answer a single question since this matter began, and he was completely forthcoming," one of Clemens' lawyers, Lanny Breuer, told The Associated Press.

Clemens, Breuer said, "answered every question that was posed to him today and we very much appreciate the committee giving him that opportunity."

Clemens' private testimony to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform came one day after his Yankees teammate and workout partner, Andy Pettitte, gave a deposition to committee staff for 2 1/2 hours. Both players' interviews were preparation for a Feb. 13 public hearing expected to focus on McNamee's allegations in the Mitchell Report that he injected Clemens more than a dozen times with human growth hormone and steroids in 1998, 2000 and 2001.

Clemens acknowledged he received injections from McNamee, but he said they were for vitamin B-12 and the painkiller lidocaine. His repeated rejection of contents in the Mitchell Report drew Congress' attention.

McNamee also told Mitchell he injected Pettitte with HGH. Pettitte acknowledged two days after the report was released that he did try HGH for two days in 2002 to help deal with an elbow injury.

Clemens, Pettitte and McNamee all are slated to testify Feb. 13.

"I look forward to being here, I guess in this room, next week," Clemens said in his 25-second statement after the deposition.

McNamee is to meet with committee lawyers Thursday. Richard Emery, one of McNamee's lawyers, said Tuesday that his client will submit to a deposition, rather than a transcribed interview. He also said McNamee was not granted immunity by the committee; the trainer wanted the same protection he received from federal prosecutors, covering his admission about distributing steroids.

"There's no immunity," Emery said in a telephone interview. "We will just go in and testify under oath."

Committee staffers would not discuss any specifics of Clemens' deposition. One committee member who sat in on about an hour of the deposition, California Republican Darrell Issa, characterized Clemens as "candid."

"He answered fully every question while I was there," Issa told The Associated Press.

The congressman also said the deposition raised questions in his mind about whether the Mitchell Report accurately reflected how pervasive steroid use has been in baseball, a subject he expects to be addressed in next week's committee hearing.

A former Yankees teammate of Pettitte and Clemens, Chuck Knoblauch, spoke to committee staff Friday. The day before, an employee of the sports agency that represents Clemens and Pettitte was interviewed.

Former New York Mets clubhouse employee Kirk Radomski, is to speak to committee lawyers Feb. 12. Radomski pleaded guilty in April to federal felony charges of distributing steroids and laundering money, and is scheduled to be sentenced Friday in U.S. District Court in San Francisco.

After Tuesday's deposition, Clemens did not take questions from reporters. As the 354-game winner headed for the exit outside the committee offices, someone at the end of the marble hallway yelled out the pitcher's nickname, "Rocket!" That drew a quick wave of a hand from Clemens before he stepped into the wood-paneled elevator.

James LeBron barely misses triple-double in Cavaliers' win over Celtics

CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron James scored 33 points and barely missed a triple-double as the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Boston Celtics 114-113 on Tuesday for the second time in this NBA season.

James added 12 assists, nine rebounds and five steals to pace the Cavaliers, who handed the NBA's best road team just its fifth loss away from home. Cleveland also beat the Celtics in overtime on Nov. 27.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas added 21 points for Cleveland.

Ray Allen led the Celtics with 24 points.

Spurs 116, Pacers 89

At Indianapolis, Tim Duncan dominated the middle and San Antonio's stingy second-half defense turned a close game into a rout.

Duncan had 19 points and 15 rebounds, and backup guard Jacque Vaughn scored 16 points off the bench.

Danny Granger led Indiana with 16 points in its season-high seventh straight defeat.

Tied at halftime, Indiana opened the third quarter shooting 1-of-11, a lapse that allowed San Antonio on an 8-0 run. By the time it ended, the Spurs had outscored Indiana 18-2, building an insurmountable 77-61 lead with 4:18 to go.

76ers 101, Wizards 96

At Philadelphia, Andre Iguodala scored 20 points and Philadelphia stunned Washington with a 17-0 run late in the fourth quarter, handing Washington its fourth straight loss.

The Sixers trailed by 12 early in the fourth before Rodney Carney's open dunk off a turnover tied the score at 90. Iguodala's layup at the 4 minute mark put the 76ers ahead 92-90. They would never trail again.

DeShawn Stevenson scored 19 points for the Wizards.

Lakers 105, Nets 90

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, Pau Gasol was a winner in his Los Angeles debut, without even much help from Kobe Bryant.

Gasol had 24 points and 12 rebounds, and the Lakers beat New Jersey despite a season-low six points from Bryant, his first single-digit effort in more than a year.

Derek Fisher matched a season high with 28 points to lead the Lakers, who improved to 3-1 on their nine-game road trip.

Vince Carter scored 27 points for the Nets, who trailed by only three points midway through the fourth quarter before Gasol keyed the decisive surge.

Bucks 102, Grizzlies 97

At Memphis, Tennessee, Mo Williams scored 32 points and led a fourth quarter rally to help Milwaukee snap a three-game losing streak.

Williams scored all 10 Milwaukee points as the Bucks overcame a five-point deficit in the final 2 minutes.

Charlie Villanueva had 16 points and 16 rebounds and Andrew Bogut added 12 points for the Bucks.

Mike Miller had a season-high 32 points, and Darko Milicic had 11 points and 12 rebounds, his third-straight double-double, for the Grizzlies, who lost their fourth in a row.

New York hails Giants with super parade

NEW YORK (AP)—On a day for jumping and whooping it up, Michael Strahan showed the throngs of jubilant fans just how it's done, New York Giants style.

The star defensive end fires up his team—a wildly improbable NFL champion—with a leap that he calls "stomping you out." And with that, Strahan jumped skyward on the podium at a Super Bowl rally Tuesday, lifting his knees to his shoulders.

"We would like to extend this to every other team in the NFL and particularly for the last team we defeated, the New England Patriots," he said, his teammates standing behind him. "Because you know what we did to you? We stomped you out!"

Two days after the Giants won the title with a 17-14 victory that ended the New England Patriots' perfect season, fans gathered at City Hall Park after a ticker-tape parade to watch their team get the keys to the city.

And those fans, umbrellas raised in a light rain, made a plea to Strahan, who is contemplating retirement. "One more year!" came the chant as soon as he got to the podium.

"One more year?" Strahan said. "We'll see."

Eli Manning, the MVP of the Super Bowl, said the team was proud to "bring the championship back to New York City."

"It's been an unbelievable journey," he said.

Manning and Strahan were joined by the entire Giants organization in a parade through the "Canyon of Heroes" before hundreds of thousands of fans, many decked out in Giants blue, to celebrate one of the city's great sports triumphs.

After the Manhattan lovefest, the team took buses back to New Jersey, where it was met by a crowd of more than 20,000 fans at Giants Stadium. The crowd saved its loudest cheers for coach Tom Coughlin, who emerged from a tunnel holding aloft the Super Bowl trophy.

AP

New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning makes his way to the stage carrying the Vince Lomardi trophy for a ceremony honoring the team Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2008 at City Hall in New York.

"You believed in us and this group of young men believed in themselves," he said. "And that's why we're standing here today."

The crowd burst into cheers when wide receive David Tyree was introduced and pressed a football to his head, simulating his astonishing catch in the final minutes of Sunday's game.

State Senate President Richard J. Codey took a jab at the Patriots when he referred to their videotaping scandal at Giants Stadium against the Jets in September.

"If the Patriots were here today, they could film all they want," Codey said.

Earlier, across the Hudson River, the Giants rode in floats and many players carried video cameras to record the moment. A huge cheer went up when Manning joined Strahan at the front of a float. The float also carried Mayor Michael Bloomberg as well as the Vince Lombardi Trophy, which was cradled like a baby in Strahan's massive arms.

"I've never ever played with a bigger group of goofballs than this group here," Strahan said. "And you know what? We won the Super Bowl!"

Bloomberg gave team officials and players keys to the city after the festivities. Gov. Eliot Spitzer and Sen. Charles Schumer were among the politicians joining Bloomberg at City Hall.

"The Giants may not be perfect but no one is, at least not this year in the NFL," Bloomberg said, taking a shot at the Patriots' 18-1 season.

Schumer said: "Now the Giants aren't just New York's team, they're America's team."

Coughlin thanked the city for the outpouring of enthusiasm.

"That parade and that show of loyalty and the response to our championship season is just something we'll remember for the rest of our lives," he said.

While it clearly was a day for a parade, it was also a day for politics: New York and the 23 other Super Tuesday states were holding primaries.

Near City Hall, signs for Democratic candidate Barack Obama were surrounded by fans wearing Giants red, white and blue. Spitzer told the crowd he had written in Coughlin for his presidential pick, with Manning for vice president.

The parade, featuring 50 tons of confetti, began at the tip of lower Manhattan in Battery Park and proceeded north on Broadway, going past the financial district and the site of the World Trade Center before the City Hall Park finale. Ticker-tape parades in the "Canyon of Heroes" have celebrated everything from Charles Lindbergh's Atlantic flight to sports championships. The last parade was in 2000, when the Yankees won the World Series. This parade was the first for a football team, said Kenneth Cobb, assistant commissioner in the city Department of Records.

Crowds were 20 people deep at some places. Fans threw hats to the players, who signed them and threw them back. Mehdi Machkour, a 26-year-old restaurant worker from Brooklyn, wasn't quite sure which two players signed his hat. The native of Morocco is more of a soccer fan, but this day brought a big change.

"Now I love football," he said.

The presence of children showed that many considered the parade to be worth missing a day of school.

Arlene Remy, 32, of Brooklyn, was with her son and three of his friends.

"They haven't won a Super Bowl since 1991 and I want to be a part of history," she said.

For New Yorkers—or politicians—who still can't get enough: Spitzer announced the availability of a New York Giants Super Bowl XLII Champions custom license plate.

Packers sign McCarthy to long-term deal

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—The Green Bay Packers signed coach Mike McCarthy on Tuesday to a five-year contract that runs through the 2012 season.

"We have accomplished some of our goals over the past two seasons, but there remains much left to be done," McCarthy said in a statement. "I am excited by the opportunity to meet those challenges and someday return another Lombardi Trophy home to Green Bay."

McCarthy, who had a year left on his original three-year deal, reportedly agreed in principle last month to the new contract, which is worth about $4 million per season.

"Mike brings tremendous passion, work ethic and structure to his position," general manager Ted Thompson said. "These are the traits we saw in him when he was hired, and we're very happy for the success we have had under his guidance." McCarthy, who signed the deal without using an agent, said the paperwork on his new contract was completed Monday before being announced Tuesday.

"I think it's great to have five years to continue to reach our goal," McCarthy said.

McCarthy, the franchise's 14th head coach, tied a Packers' franchise record with 13 regular-season victories on the way to an NFC North Division championship and bye in the first round of the playoffs despite having the NFL's youngest team.

After beating Seattle in the NFC divisional playoff round, the Packers lost 23-20 in overtime in the NFC championship game to the eventual Super Bowl champs, the New York Giants.

"It's only natural to say, 'My goodness, that should have been us,'" McCarthy said. "They're a perfect example of playing their best football when it counts."

Both sides had hoped to get a contract done before the Super Bowl. Negotiations slowed because Thompson was on the road scouting, while McCarthy was preparing his team in the playoffs.

The 44-year-old McCarthy, a Pittsburgh native, has won 18 of his last 22 games after getting off to a 4-8 start in his first season as head coach in 2006. He said he likes the way the organization is set up and didn't seek additional power regarding player personnel moves.

"That's something I did not desire at this point. I think structure, lines of responsibilities, organization charts are very important to any successful operation," McCarthy said. "I think the fit between Ted Thompson and myself and the way we're structured with our personnel department and coaching staff, the way they work hand-in-hand. I think it's an extremely healthy situation."

McCarthy also said he'd check in with Brett Favre this week. The annual rite of winter in Wisconsin, Favre and McCarthy talk about every seven to 10 days until the three-time MVP makes a decision whether to return for an 18th season or retire.

"He's going to take a couple weeks to think about it," McCarthy said. "As I've stated before, it's more of a personal issue as far as if you're going to come back as opposed to professional. I think he clearly shows, clearly shown that he still has a lot of football left in his tank."

NFL BRIEFS

Giants' Spagnuolo speaks with Redskins

ASHBURN, Va. (AP)—From Super Bowl to job interview. From ticker-tape parade in Manhattan to Dan Snyder's house along the Potomac River, via the Washington Redskins owner's private plane. It's already been quite a week for Steve Spagnuolo. Still basking in euphoria from a victory on American sport's biggest stage, the New York Giants defensive coordinator arrived in the Washington area Tuesday to interview for the Redskins' coaching vacancy. No audition tape was necessary; the defense's performance in Sunday's 17-14 upset of the New England Patriots pretty much speaks for itself. "I think they're pretty good," Snyder said. "It was a very interesting game. To see what I consider the most explosive offense I've seen in years and years to just be slowed down like that was quite impressive." Snyder was making a rare public comment on the coaching search at his own celebratory event, a reception marking the selection of former Redskins Art Monk and Darrell Green into the Hall of Fame. Snyder said he anticipates his team playing in the Hall of Fame game in Canton, Ohio, this summer. After the reception, Snyder was planning to head home to meet with Spagnuolo. "We're going back to work tonight," Snyder said. "And hopefully we'll be making the right decision in the very near future."

Specter, Goodell could meet next week

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Arlen Specter and NFL commissioner Roger Goodell could meet next week to discuss the league's investigation into spying allegations against the New England Patriots. The two staffs are working on setting up the meeting, Specter's office confirmed Tuesday. Last week, Specter, R-Pa., questioned the quality of the NFL investigation and Goodell's decision to destroy video evidence uncovered by the league earlier this season. Goodell fined New England coach Bill Belichick $500,000 and docked the team $250,000 and a first-round draft pick after the Patriots were accused of videotaping New York Jets defensive coaches as they signaled to players during the Sept. 9 season opener. Specter, the top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, also had raised the possibility of congressional hearings if he wasn't satisfied with Goodell's answers. The Patriots lost to the New York Giants 17-14 in the Super Bowl on Sunday, ending their bid to become the first NFL team to go 19-0.

29 teams vie for championships in four divisions

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

A total of 29 teams spread out in four divisions will begin their respective quests for titles as the 2008 season of the Saipan Little League opens tomorrow at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Fifteen teams will be competing in the Major division, while four will vie for the Junior league crown. The Senior and Big League divisions have five teams each.

The brief opening ceremony will start at 6pm where Saipan Little League Baseball Association officials invited Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Senate President Pete P. Reyes, House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, and Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela as the guests of honor.

SLLBA president Juan I. Tenorio said they invited Fitial, Reyes, Palacios, and Tudela as the guests to inspire and share their words of wisdom to all players in the four divisions—Majors, Junior, Senior, and Big.

Tenorio said Friday's event is only the opening ceremony and games will be played the following weekend, Feb 16 to Feb. 18, since the LG Twins are still using the field for practice.

"The board decided to move the games next week. We cannot use the field because the LG Twins are still scheduled to practice," said Tenorio, who is inviting all teams to attend the opening ceremonies.

The SaipanCell Patriots is aiming for their third straight title in the Majors division. Out to stop them are the Braves, Twins, Team McDonald's, Kagman Lions, Dolphins, Red Sox, Survivors, Ol'Aces, Pirates, San Antonio Dragons, Athletic A's, Hustlers, and DPS.

The Patriots, Red Sox, and Survivors have been practicing everyday at the Dandan Elementary School Field.

The Fielders, Lion Hearts, Ol'Aces, and the Jets are the competing teams in the Junior league.

The Senior division squads are the Fielders, Dolphins, Jets, Lion Kings, and the D9ers, while the Big league is composed of the Aztecs, Falcons, Fielders, Dolphins, and Jets.

Aside from planning the 2008 season, SLLBA officials with the help of CNMI Little League district administrator James Ada will also start their preparation for the hosting of the district and regional tournaments.

Saipan will be hosting Tinian and Rota in the 2008 CNMI District Tournament. The winners of the district tournament will represent the CNMI in the regional meet where they will be facing teams from Guam, Hong Kong, Indonesia, and the Philippines,

Aside from Tenorio, the other SLLBA officers for 2008 are vice president and player agent Michael A. Borja, secretary Bobbie Norita-Techur, treasurer Annie Deleon Guerrero Flores, chief statistician Roque Celis, safety officer Ben Taitano, umpire consultant James Miwata, and managers' representative George N. Camacho.

NMA releases events for qualifying meets

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Athletics released the list of events that will be offered for the qualifying meets during the open tryouts both in the men's and women's open division.

The tryouts are in the Open and 18-and-under male and female divisions in preparation for the 2008 Oceania Athletics Association Area Championships and Grand Prix Series.

The events, with the qualifying times or distances are 100m dash; 200m, 400m, 800m, 1,500m, 3,000m, and 5,000m runs; 3,000m steeplechase; 100m, 110m, and 400m hurdles; the high, long, and triple jump; throwing events shot put, discus, hammer, and javelin; octathlon and heptathlon; half marathon and cross country; 3,000m race walk; and 5,000m road walk.

These will be the list of events NMA athletes and other individuals can try out to become a member of the CNMI track and field team.

The list of events includes the qualifying times in the running events and distances for all field events, which will be the standard to be used in order to qualify for Team CNMI in the Oceania Championships.

NMA officials are inviting everyone to join the open tryouts. They will be holding qualifying meets every month at the Oleai Track and Field facility inside the Susupe Sports Complex.

Saipan will be hosting the Oceania Championships and Grand Prix Series from June 21 to 28 at the Oleai track oval where 19 OAA member federations and New Caledonia will be competing.

Joining host CNMI and associate member New Caledonia in the weeklong event are powerhouse teams Australia and New Zealand as well as OAA member federations American Samoa, the Solomon Islands, the Cook Islands, Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Norfolk Island, Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, Tahiti, Guam, Kiribati, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, and Vanuatu.

An athlete that meets the qualifying times and distances does not guarantee him or her a spot in Team CNMI since another criteria for the selection is you must be 90 percent present in all of the practices.

Those who qualify can come and practice with other NMA athletes at the Oleai Track and Field Facility from Monday to Saturday from 5pm to 7pm.

The Oleai track facility is still closed for the public to prepare it for the Oceania Championships and Grand Prix Series and for the exclusive use of the athletes for their training.

Plans are also underway to build the grandstands in time for the Area Championships. Construction begins by the end of February or first week of March.

MENUDO

From Page 28

Menudo added Ma Numel'u as their latest victim handing their opponents its sixth straight loss after a 25-16, 25-12, 15-7 decision. Ma Numel'u remains at the cellar of the nine-team field and is joined by the Beach Jammers.

Ma Numel'u proved to be no match against the Menudo frontline of Bruce Berline, Dale Roberts, Mark McDonald, and Tyce Mister as they showed little resistance in the entire match.

No Fear ended CH-Hammer's four-game winning run after handing their foes a 23-25, 25-19, 15-10 decision. The win evened up No Fear's record to 3-3 to tie Ol'Aces from sixth to seventh place.

Despite the loss, CH-Hammer, which had a 0-2 start, is still in third place with a 4-3 slate. They are joined by Home Boyz after its 23-25, 25-17, 15-6 victory over Beach Jammers.

Fanians improved to a 4-2 mark after a 20-25, 25-17, 17-15 decision against Ol'Aces, which dropped to 3-3.

In the women's division, Pikan Gaga recorded its fourth straight win after escaping with a 25-17, 23-25, 15-12 triumph over Ta Chagi.

Sekid is in second place with a 2-2 record, which is the same mark of its victims Beach Jammers. Seikid beat the Beach Jammers, 25-20, 25-14, 15-13.

Ta Chagi and YoYo's are tied at the bottom of the standings with identical 1-3 slates.

Action continues today with Home Boyz opening up the games in the men's division when they go up against Menudo at 6pm while Ma Numel'u aims to win its first game when they face Fanians in the 7pm match.

CH-Hammer collides with Ol'Aces at 8pm, while the 9pm game will feature the Islanders-No feat match.

In the women's division, Pikan Gaga goes for its fifth straight win when they meet the Beach Jammers in the 6pm contest while Seikid battles YoYo's at 7pm.

LEE

From Page 28

main draw along with Abigail Tere-Apisah of Papua New Guinea and Samoa's Steffi Carruthers, who are ranked 515 and 1,469 in the world junior rankings.

Tere-Apisah, ranked ninth in the tournament, and the unseeded Carruthers marched to the second round after beating their respective opponents but were knocked out in the Round of 32.

Tere-Apisah scored a 6-3, 6-1 win over Australia's Emily Webb but suffered a 1-6, 6-7 (4) upset against unseeded Taro Keens of Great Britain. Keens will next face fifth seed Abigail Guthrie of New Zealand in the Last 16.

Carruthers, meanwhile, cruised to a 6-0, 6-1 triumph over New Zealand's Leah Woods but lost to Chizuru Yamazaki of Japan, 7-6 (10), 6-2. Yamazaki's Last 16 opponent is No. 2 Ashling Sumner of Australia.

Other seeded players in the Last 16 are Mia Vriens of Australia, No. 3; Japan's Mai Minokoshi, No. 8; Briar Preston, No. 12, and Katherine Westbury of New Zealand; and Korea's Ju-Eun Kim, No. 10.

The Canterbury Championships is one of two ITF Grade IV events that Lee will be competing while in New Zealand. Lee will now head to Wellington to join the Wellington 18-and-under Summer Championships from Feb. 11 to 16 at the Renouf Tennis Center at Brooklyn Road, Brooklyn.

Unlike in the Canterbury Championships where she is entered in the main draw, Lee this time will have to battle 15 other junior players for the eight qualifying spots at stake in the week-long event.

The two junior tennis tournaments are ITF world junior ranking events where players can earn points. Lee is expected to return to Saipan on Feb. 19.

NMASA

From Page 28

ics), Rezne Wong (swimming), Edsel Mendoza (basketball), Tyrone Omar (athletics), Raj Jayalal (badminton), B.J. Sablan (baseball), John Sablan (basketball), Robert Talavera (bowling) m Randall Aguon (baseball), and Nick Gross (athletics).

Omar was named athlete of the month twice in 2007 (April and August).

Multiple month winners Yvonne Bennett (May, August, and December) of athletics and Sarah Johnson (March and April) of swimming, meanwhile, led the five nominees in the Female Athlete of the Year plum. The other three vying for the honors are Noriko Jim of athletics, Chelsea Ruluked of basketball, and Emi Williams of bowling.

For Male Student Athlete of the Year, a total of nine will contend for the award—David Bautista (athletics), John Mafnas (baseball), Kensuke Kimura (swimming), Cooper Graf (swimming), Chris Cajigan (tennis), Russell Buenaventura (tennis), Manuel Ajoste (basketball), Ji Hoon Heo (tennis), and Jericho Cruz (basketball).

Heo won in November and August, while Graf took home the award in March and September.

The nominees for Female Student Athlete of the Year, on the other hand, will be headed by January, May, and July winner Jacque Wonenberg of athletics.

August and December winner Thea Minor of tennis will also be among the darkhorses in the category that will also have Jessica Soll of tennis, Yvonne Bennett of athletics, and Sarah Johnson of swimming.

The selection of NMASA Athlete of the Year award will be held during the islands sports body's regular monthly meeting today, Feb. 7, 7pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

As always, NMASA member associations will also vote for the best athletes for the previous month (January) in four categories (male, female, male student, and female student).

NMASA reminds associations that will be nominating their athletes for the month of January to submit written nominations in multiple copies to be distributed to members during the meeting.

TSUNAMI

From Page 28

1:35.94 in the 100m breastroke events in last weekend's meet.

"These aren't record-breaking times but it is certain she has gained strength and increased her speed," said Kimura.

Welch's skill in the breaststroke hasn't impressed her so far. "I'm not satisfied because I can't yet get the best times in the 50m freestyle. I really prefer the freestyle over the breaststroke," she said.

Other Tsunami Saipan participants in the 2008 Heptathlon Swim Meet were Daniel Villegas and Shin Kimura.

Villegas participated in two events and dropped times in both the 50m freestyle and the 100m freestyle.

Shin, meanwhile, took part in five events and dropped times in four of the five events.

Another of Tsunami Saipan's ace swimmers, Kensuke Kimura, was a non-participant this time because of a sprained ankle.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	36	9	.800	
Toronto	26	21	.553	11
New Jersey	20	28	.417	17 1/2
Philadelphia	19	30	.388	19
New York	14	34	.292	23 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	31	19	.620	
Washington	24	23	.511	5 1/2
Atlanta	20	24	.455	8
Charlotte	18	31	.367	12 1/2
Miami	9	37	.196	20

Central Division

Detroit	34	13	.723	
Cleveland	27	20	.574	7
Chicago	19	28	.404	15
Indiana	19	30	.388	16
Milwaukee	19	30	.388	16

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	32	15	.681	
New Orleans	32	15	.681	
San Antonio	30	16	.652	1 1/2
Houston	28	20	.583	4 1/2
Memphis	13	35	.271	19 1/2

Northwest Division

Utah	31	18	.633	
Denver	29	18	.617	1
Portland	27	20	.574	3
Seattle	12	36	.250	18 1/2
Minnesota	10	37	.213	20

Pacific Division

Phoenix	34	14	.708	
L.A. Lakers	31	16	.660	2 1/.2
Golden State	29	19	.604	5
Sacramento	22	24	.478	11
L.A. Clippers	15	30	.333	17 1/2

Yesterdays Games

Cleveland 114, Boston 113
San Antonio 116, Indiana 89
Philadelphia 101, Washington 96
L.A. Lakers 105, New Jersey 90
Milwaukee 102, Memphis 97

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

NMIVA Indoor Standings
Men's Division

	W	L	PF	PA	SW
Menudo	5	1	377	274	16
Islanders	5	1	338	336	10
CH-Hammer	4	3	406	376	12
Home Boyz	4	3	416	395	12
Fanians	4	2	355	339	11
No Fear	3	3	370	350	10
Ol'Aces	3	3	349	365	8
Ma Numel'u	0	6	302	392	3
Beach Jammers	0	6	305	389	2

Women's Division

Pikan Gaga	4	0	250	218	8
Sekid	2	2	235	233	7
Beach Jammers	2	2	212	237	5
Ta Chagi	1	3	226	229	5
YoYo's	1	3	235	241	5

PF-Points for
PA-Points allowed
SW-Sets won

Japanese wakeboarders enjoy Saipan trip

Photos and Text by JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Four of Japan's young wakeboarding enthusiasts frolicked on the waters of the Saipan Lagoon last week when they practiced and showed off their respective skills.

Fifteen-year-old Japan Professional Wakeboard Association national champion Toshiki led the group. His other companions were 14-year-old Nari, who is also a professional wakeboarder; Natsuki, 12; and Mizuki, 10.

Toshiki won the open title last year against older and veteran wakeboarders.

It was Toshiki's and Nari's first time to visit Saipan, while Natsuki and Mizuki, who are still amateur wakeboarders, have visited the island more than once.

Toshiki is planning to compete in a major U.S. tournament this year and hopes to join other international events to gain more exposure.

Toshiki adjusts himself while in midair at the Saipan Lagoon last week.

Mizuki takes off as he tries to go for a somersault at the Saipan Lagoon last week.

Twelve-year-old Natsuki prepares to land on the water at the Saipan Lagoon last week.

Fifteen-year-old professional wake boarder Toshiki of Japan pulls off a stunt at the Saipan Lagoon last week.

Ten-year-old Japanese amateur wake boarder Mizuki practices his skills at the Saipan Lagoon last week.

Toshiki changes hands as he goes for a 360-degree spin while in midair at the Saipan Lagoon last week.

Fourteen-year-old Nari creates some waves on his wakeboard at the Saipan Lagoon last week.

Natsuki goes airborne at the Saipan Lagoon last week.

Nari launches himself on the air at the Saipan Lagoon last week.

Nari prepares himself for a landing at the Saipan Lagoon last week.

Japanese wakeboarders enjoy Saipan trip

Four of Japan's young wakeboarding enthusiasts frolicked on the waters of the Saipan Lagoon last week when they practiced and showed off their respective skills.

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Sports

Shaq reportedly may be traded to Suns

Shaquille O'Neal is prepared for the Miami Heat to trade him, a confidant of the 14-time All-Star center told The Associated Press on Tuesday night.

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Rezne makes waves in Heptathlon meet

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan made a good impression during the 3rd Annual Heptathlon Swim Meet held last Friday and Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

On Friday afternoon, Rezne Wong broke the CNMI 100m breaststroke record set by Dean Palacios when he swam the event in 1:12.19. The previous best mark was 1:12.21 and set by Palacios in 2003.

A proud Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura said that he is certain Wong will break some more records in the Saipan International Meet next month.

"Rezne's personal goal is to try to become the overall champion at the Guam Championships in May and make the times to compete with higher level swimmers at a Japan national meet," he said.

The Tsunami Saipan wave also included nine new swimmers who made their respective debuts in the Saipan Swim Club-organized meet.

"I am very happy for the future of CNMI swimming and for these nine new swimmers. Both parents and swimmers showed a lot of enthusiasm, cheering for their teammates and cheering for the SSC swimmers as well," added Kimura.

Kimura said most of the "newbies" only started swimming a few months ago. They include 12-year-old Fumika Umeda, 11-year-old Ashley Welch, 9-year-old Salofi Welch, and 9-year-old Takumi Sugie.

The 8-year-olds, meanwhile, are composed of Ritsuki Umeda, Kosei Toda, Kaito Yanai, and Daisuke Fitial.

The youngest Tsunami wave, as the newcomers are nicknamed, is 7-year-old Ryosei Toda.

"Some of the new swimmers already achieved a B time (U.S. time standard) including Salofi, Ritsuki, and Ryosei in the 50m breastroke. Kaito got a BB time in the 50m breastroke," said Kimira.

Coach Kimura has set a minimum standard of a B time for competing in the Guam Short Course Championships in April.

"It is clear that this young generation will become the CNMI swimming representatives and be active in the sport for a long time," he said.

Another Tsunami Saipan standout is 14-year-old Marystar Welch. She has established herself as the top female breaststroker in the CNMI and she proved it by clocking in at 43.86 in the 50m and

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Rezne Wong broke the CNMI 100m breaststroke record during the 3rd Annual Heptathlon Swim Meet held last Friday and Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

Menudo regains lead, Pikan Gaga undefeated in women's

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Menudo regained the lead in the men's division, while Pikan Gaga continues to throw its weight around in the distaff side in the continuation of indoor volleyball action Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Menudo and the Islanders actually are tied for the top spot in the men's division of the Indoor Volleyball Winter League with similar 5-1 slates, but the latter earned the league's current top seed based on the points they scored.

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JON PEREZ
Sivas Awes, left, of Home Boyz goes for a kill as two Beach Jammers players go on a two-man block in their Tuesday night's game in the men's division of the Indoor Winter Volleyball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

NMASA to select Athletes of the Year today

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Outstanding performances in sports during the past year will be decided today when the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association holds its selection for the 2007 Athlete of the Year awards.

Representatives of NMASA member federations will be entitled to one vote each and they will choose a winner in four categories—Male Athlete of the Year, Female Athlete of the Year, Male Student Athlete of the Year, and Female Student Athlete of the Year.

Nominations are culled from athlete of the month awardees in the same four categories in 2007.

A total of 11 are nominated for Male Athlete of the Year—Jack Kabiriel (athlet-

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Lee suffers loss in first round

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Call it jet lag or trouble adjusting to New Zealand's hard courts, Vivian Lee suffered an early first round exit in yesterday's action in the SunSmart Under-18 Canterbury Championships at Wilding Park in Christchurch.

Lee was outplayed, out-hustled, and outsmarted by unseeded Nicole Hoynaski of Australia, 0-6, 1-6, in their Round of 64 match at the Scenic Circle Hotels Tennis Center.

The 14-year-old Hoynaski thus won her first career singles match after four tries. She previously held a 0-3 record in singles play and is 0-2 in doubles matches.

Lee, who ranked a career-best 973 in the International Tennis Federation world junior rankings on Jan. 8, 2007, dropped to a 2-4 record in her career singles matches and is 0-3 in doubles. She suffered her first loss for the year.

Seventh seed Haruka Naito of Japan prevented Hoynaski to advance further in the tournament cruising to a 6-2, 6-0 win. She now faces Ella Bourchier of Australia in the Last 16 with the winner moving on to the quarterfinals and will face the winner of the match between top seed Chelsea Te Tai of New Zealand or 15th ranked Stephanie Slaveski of Australia.

The 15-year-old Lee is among the 51 players in the

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JON PEREZ
Vivian Lee eyes the ball as she prepares for a forehand return in her final training session with trainer/coach Lope Padilla last week at the Hyatt Regency Saipan tennis courts.